

# Public Libraries

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## The Library and Museum in Commercial Education

Ralph L. Power, librarian, Boston university, College of business administration

The rapid development of commercial education within the past 15 years has enlarged the concept of business education beyond the clerical aim of the old time business college. "Facts about commerce contained in books are dead unless interpreted by a mass of experience, which endows these facts with vitality by showing them to be factors in a process." The demand for close correlation of theory and practice in commercial education has given rise to experiments intended to bring the work of the school in close relation to the business community.

In full realization of this truth there has been formed at Boston university a Commercial museum in conjunction with the library of the college of business administration. The museum occupies the same quarters as the library. This is a very happy arrangement, for each department supplements the other. The museum exhibits are carefully arranged under glass in the order most convenient for students in Natural resources, Commercial development, Commercial geography, Industrial history, History of commerce and similar courses. The books covering the theoretical side of the subjects are ranged close at hand on the shelves. Then the student can read and see for himself both at the same time; a very profitable system of study.

The explicit arrangement of the specimens depends upon the course. In geographical courses on commerce, the students must be taught to make a synthetic picture of the country in all its industrial activities. In this case the

exhibit should be laid so as to give acquaintance with the fundamental concepts taught in the text—such as transportation for instance, or raw material, manufacturers, markets.

For more advanced courses the many exhibits are arranged more to show the various stages of transformation from raw material to finished product, the evolution of the perfect goods; for example, the cotton division shows in rotation the following: cotton plant, un-ginned cotton, ginned cotton, unbleached muslin, bleached muslin, Persian lawn, calico, gingham, Zephyr gingham, Chambray, photograph of cotton picking, Peruvian cotton, cotton linters, cotton yarn, cotton rope, cotton seeds, cotton seed oil, cotton seed oil cake, cotton oil foots soap, photographs of cotton gins, factory, baling cotton, cotton market, and map showing geographical distribution of cotton.

The same evolution holds for the fountain pen and so on down through the list: wheat, rice, sugar, tea, coffee, spice, lumber, dyes, wool, leather, silk, iron, steel, minerals, petroleum products, asbestos, soap, and salt with many other classifications including all their several divisions and sub-divisions—all are arranged in an accessible manner. Since the museum, as used in the College of business administration, endeavors to show the students objectively just how processes take place, the materials can often be used to advantage by professors as illustrations in their lecturing in class room work. Classes in system building and cost accounting use in class, products of the museum in studying costs of articles at different stages of factory work. These several aids enable the pupils to gain the concrete experience at the same time as they are getting the the-

ory, a combination which is necessary before abstract teaching can be truly effective.

There are many practical helps for the museum to be found in other than purely exhibition matter. The following supplementary aids will be found useful in many ways; Stereopticon views show all processes of manufacturing in their logical order of developments. These aid the museum immensely, but make a very poor substitute for it, since pictures always tend to degenerate into mere entertainment. Various maps will be found of assistance for work on routes of commerce. These will include mercators maps, the globe, relief maps, graphs to interpret statistics, pictures from magazines, travel folders and advertisements. These many aids are not of the sort usually found in the average type of public library, but they are vitally necessary to a commercial museum, and use might also be found for them in connection with the regular library work.

The idea of combining, in a small way, the museum with the library might be very advantageously carried out in many public libraries, particularly in small towns where the library is the center of all activities—social, concerts, club meetings and the like. The library could well set apart a small room for featuring museum exhibits. I do not mean for a moment that the library should lose sight of its main purpose—to furnish good reading for the public—but since in the small town library many activities must be combined and usually center about the library, it is the logical thing to combine the two. Indeed the presence of the museum will, under ordinary circumstances, redound to the library's profit. It will mean the attraction of a greater number of people to the building and ultimately a greater chance to circulate books. The methods used in the Boston university commercial museum are, with slight adaptations, applicable to all schools, public and private, whether of grammar or high school grades.

In establishing a commercial museum several departments of the United States

Government are usually willing to coöperate—the Department of agriculture and Department of fisheries will help freely. A great aid in judging what is expected of such a collection can be had from educational publications and printed matter from museums. Industrial and commercial firms in normal times gladly contribute specimens and exhibits of articles in the world of commerce and industry showing the different stages of their development. Business men and manufacturers are ready to aid schools and libraries by sending samples of their products. Always the public spirited citizen appears who will contribute towards such an educational end and private donations are always forthcoming, though careful discriminations in retaining these should be used. It would be extremely well to judiciously select from among the gifts the material which could be used to advantage and to reject that which would prove valueless. The specimens which are shelved merely to take up space and which have no definite value have no place in a good museum collection.

At this time when the country is in an unusually prosperous stage, when there is the greatest activity on the farm, in the mills, and in the stores, manufacturers are apt to be too busy to bother with exhibits the minute requests are received. With the very best of conditions, even, establishing a museum is a somewhat slow process.

A commercial museum should represent the commercial interests of the region. If the library is in a mining region its collection should be rich in mineral specimens; if in a lumbering district the exhibits will be of raw timber and the finished specimens; while in a large agricultural area, farm products would be the predominating material. There is no section of the country so devoid of industry that it does not offer some opportunity for a kind of laboratory or observational study of commerce. Yet care must always be taken against making the museum one sided and provincial. In a milling or agricultural section, museum collectors

should use every means of developing such a complete set of specimens from other lines of business as will give the students and visitors a balanced grasp of matters outside the ordinary routine of their own trade. If the museum is to be educational it must be cultural; if it is cultural it must be comprehensive.

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Ought the library to wait until called upon for assistance, or ought the library to take the initiative in trying to give assistance and spread the wealth of knowledge so carefully guarded within its wall?

If the library is to be the continuation school in life for thousands upon thousands, then the library must be equipped not only with books, but with men and women in a position to help in the guiding work. The library shall put interesting information in usable form and should circulate it. The people of the community should be encouraged by special invitation repeated frequently to make use of library facilities in the answering of questions on whatever subjects.

The one thing people will have to do for themselves is to think for themselves, reason for themselves and work for themselves. No public institution can possibly do that. But the facts and the data should be furnished to the people.

When work and economic conditions are such that all men will have more leisure and a brain not too tired and strained by the grind of the day's work, then the librarian need not despair as to how to serve the working class. The working class then will demand certain service and the library will most willingly and cheerfully serve.—*Mrs. Victor L. Berger.*

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The February number of the monthly *Bulletin* of the St. Louis public library, has, on its front page, a cut of St. Louis bearing aloft a torch held in a receptacle labeled "Public library." The slogan "Forward," which is applicable both to St. Louis and its public library, crowns the drawing.

#### Choosing Books for the Children's Reading

During the merry month of May library institutes flourish gaily in New York state. At one of these meetings last year the program for an afternoon session was crowded with the oratory of nine speakers. There was a trustee, a librarian, a clubwoman, an engineer, a Sunday school teacher, a public school teacher, two pastors, a banker and some prominent citizens. Expressions such as: "The library the university of the people," "the librarian the source of inspiration," "the boys and girls, the future citizens of our great commonwealth," "the library the most important branch of the educational system," etc., etc., were sprinkled plentifully throughout the speeches. Now and then reference was made to the inspirational and recreation functions of the library but without fail every one of the speakers declared, emphasized and reiterated the duty of the librarian to furnish information to the children so that they may grow up into useful citizens. At the end of the seventh speech a folded p. slip came traveling down the line. On it was penciled these words: "A cat has nine lives how many lives has a librarian?" A little later a weary looking librarian whispered into my ear: "This is where I beat it, I'm going back to my library on the next train, to rescue the future citizens of this great commonwealth." This library worm had turned but only a few knew of her turning. That's the way of librarians, they turn in such a lady-like way.

You remember the small boy who laboriously read from his reader, "This is a warm dough nut. Step on it." "Oh no," said his teacher "surely that is not right" and the small boy tried again reading it correctly this time. "This is a worm. Do not step on it."

The world in general does not seem to heed this injunction so far as the librarian is concerned. Even once in a while we hear loud protests from the teachers. They say: "We do protest against the growing tendency to hold

the teacher responsible for the whole life of the child. Five hours of five days of perhaps forty weeks is the teacher's maximum time allowance per year with a class of forty or more pupils and she cannot do the work of mother, father, minister, physician at the same time, no matter how willing she may be or how pressing the need."

Then the librarian comes along and she has every right to say: "That's all very well but all these things are also expected of us *plus* the burdens which you the teachers add to our lot. You send us on a busy afternoon a whole class of forty or more pupils telling them 'To look it up in the library,' not taking the trouble to realize that hours of search are often required to track an illusive topic to its lair. Theoretically you believe in the value of books as tools, books as sources of inspiration and recreation but what are you doing to prepare yourself to help your pupils to use them as such. You are shifting your responsibilities on us."

Do you know about that woman with indefatigable energy whose ambition was that some day she would have a tombstone which would say: She did the work of 10 women. By and by this woman had a nervous break down. She was at the brink of the dark river and there she had a vision. When she recovered she had a new philosophy. It was this: Do the work of 10, by getting nine women to help you." It seems to me that this is excellent advice to the average librarian. In order to follow it, it might be well for her to reflect "Just what is my share in this work of 10?" No doubt her inquiry would lead back to such fundamentals as these:

The library is an educational institution, therefore the librarian should consider herself an educator. As an educator she must keep in touch with present day tendencies in education. In doing so she will find that our educational methods are constantly changing. The pendulum swings in wide arcs. What was law and gospel yesterday has become obsolete today. The various educational experiments bring

with them their flood of literature so called. To what extent shall this be taken into account by the librarian? In order to form her plan of procedure, and to outline her philosophy of work as an educator, the librarian's chief duty is to the children of her community. Were she to formulate a catechism for her profession she might well ask: "What is the chief end of the librarian?" and the answer would still be as it has always been: "To give the right book to the right child at the right time" and were she to devise a creed for the children's librarian it might well have for its first article of faith: "I believe that books have power to affect the soul of a child."

If, then, the children's librarian's belief and duty coincide she finds that the two most important factors in her work are books and children. She can well afford to limit her efforts to these two factors. Let the other nine who help her do their share in developing the future citizen, but the librarian's first duty is clearly with the child and his book.

The chief end in all education is character building. How many books on the shelves of our children's room contribute toward that end? If we read the prefaces of most books written for children we will find that most authors hope their particular book will do its share toward character building. But do they? Many of these books are purely informational. They are an attempt to provide in print that information which each new educational fad requires. When Nature Study was the style a flood of books about plant and animal life appeared. When manual training held the educational stage it brought with it a galaxy of hand craft books. Since dramatization has entered the curriculum, lo and behold the variety and the number of dramatic readers! The Boy Scout and the Campfire movements and now Vocational training have their followers. The imagination of writers of children's books is in close touch with the educators. In fact, the two are often one, for a constantly growing number of teach-

ers are authors of the books which ultimately reach our shelves. It is getting to be remarkably easy to burst into print. This means that an increasing number of people of mediocre ability, of narrow viewpoint and with little vision are swelling the yearly output of books. It is comparatively easy to write an informational book. An encyclopedia and a typewriter are often the chief requisites. Now information may add to knowledge but knowledge is a thing of the mind, it does not of itself make character, only as it affects the heart-life does it mold character, for "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." Greater therefore in their culture value than books of information are the books which awaken the imagination and quicken the emotions.

In order to get a comprehensive view of the present day tendencies in children's literature I made a survey of those recently published children's books which librarians would be most likely to consider as being representative. I took for my basis the *A. L. A. Booklist* from September, 1912, to date. A tabulation by classes gives the following result: 000, 2; 100, 3; 200, 4; 300, 15; 398, 22; 400, 0; 500, 27; 600, 47; 700, 35; 800, 35; Travel, 47; Biography, 34; History, 70; Fiction, 131; Picture books, 5; total, 477.

This is an average of 120 new titles per year which are listed. When we consider the great flood of children's books published each year, the 120 selected represent the gold out of the dross, but where these are closely examined we still find many that are merely the made-to-order-style of books. A large number are the expressions of the newest pedagogic experiments, others are simply informational, of the textbook variety, still others retell or adapt the old myths, folktales and romances and do not always improve in the retelling. The How-to-do and How-to-make books are filling our shelves so rapidly that there is no excuse for any home to be without chicken coops, broom holders or aeroplanes. Every classic fairy tale has been dramatized and still the dramatic

readers come. No longer need we search for material for special days and holidays in out of the way books and back number periodicals. We are now provided with all manner of books entirely devoted to supply this need. The fiction is often a sugar coated pill of information on how to run a farm or what to do in a Boy Scout or Campfire girl camp, or why we should conserve the forests. It is only now and then that we come upon a real book, one with heart interest. But even these do not measure up to the *Little Women*, *Hans Brinker*, *Five Little Peppers* kind of book—the kind that we received at Christmas and read through eagerly, loaned to our friends and when it came back was put on our bookshelves where it could be seen and loved and reread. And they were worth rereading. There was meat and substance to them. They left a good taste in the mouth. The people in these books were real, flesh and blood people whom we could admire and love and imitate. *And they still are!* And here is the solution of our problem. We do not need to be utterly cast down because materialism has so largely invaded the field of present day literature for children. What matter if it has? Have we not a priceless heritage in the books and stories that have come down to us through the past? And isn't it fine that the children's imaginations today are as active, their brains as plastic, their outlook still as clear-eyed as was ours when we were children? The chief thing for us to remember is to hold fast to our ideals. To stand calm and serene in our belief. Let the pendulum of pedagogic thought swing back and forth. Somewhere in its arc it is straight up and down and there where sanest educational thought finds rest, let it find us. Let us rejoice that many of the old standard children's books are now illustrated by the foremost artists and published in beautiful editions and making it a joy for us to introduce old favorites to new friends. It is this bringing together of the child and book which is our next consideration. There are so many ways of doing it. The story hour,

the bulletin board, talks to classes, to mothers' meetings, to teachers, lists of various kinds, etc. We have tried them all and each has something to recommend it, but none surpass first hand knowledge of the contents of the book. You can not stir up much enthusiasm over a book which you know only by hearsay or by reading a book review. It is only by knowing and loving some of the worth-while books that we can cheerfully withstand the constant clamor for the newest book.

In a recent editorial in the *Library Journal*, Mr Bowker speaks of "the enthusiasm in their work which is *rampant*, one might almost say, among children's librarians." Enthusiasm and children's librarian naturally go together. Children in the library are a duty, an asset and a joy. Books in themselves are interesting, children even more so. To be the medium through which one may bring the two together is a rare privilege but—because we take joy in our work, because we enthuse, most of us have responded to all the clamor and demand for more and more service in ever widening circles. We have tried to make good, but at times we have had a decided fellow feeling for the bewildered chameleon on a piece of plaid. You remember that he "bust hisself" in order to comply with the demands on him.

The last two or three decades have called for pioneer and missionary stuff in the children's librarian. We had to rush in where the other angels feared to tread but now that children's work in the library is a generally accepted thing, hasn't the time come for us to stop, look and listen a bit? To seek power of mental repose now and then and to define our philosophy of work and hold fast to our ideals. Is it not time for us to have a clear vision of our duty as children's librarian?—as educators? We are told "Without a vision the people perish." Trite as it may be, our vision can still be best defined as being that of giving the right book to the right child at the right time. And the first and last article of our creed should still be: "Books do have power to affect the soul of the child."

### The National Library of Brazil

The following interesting account of the Library of Rio de Janeiro, was given recently, in a number of the *Christian Science Monitor*:

As one travels on the east coast of South America, where the more or less blatant and showy materialism of the new economic order first impresses, there is little expectation of finding such a building with such contents as is to be discovered in the National library at Rio de Janeiro, founded in 1808, by the Prince Regent of Portugal, Dom João, later the Brazilian King João VI. Coming to Rio as ruler, he brought with him the Portuguese Royal library of 60,000 volumes.

This excellent collection of books has received notable additions since, Dom Pedro II having added 50,000 volumes from his own collection, and Dr Julio Benedicto Ottoni, the Brazilian manufacturer, donating the famous "Brazilian collection." According to the law of the country, a copy of every work published in Brazil must be forwarded to the library. The result has been a worthy collection of books and literature, including 360,167 printed books, 569,643 manuscripts, 6,876 geographical maps, 123,182 pictures and 28,709 coins and medals. It is said that the languages in which the books of this library are printed include 14, and the study and devotion given to the collection and modern arrangement by the librarians has added greatly to the value of the institution.

This literature is housed in a building on the Avenida Rio Branco, opened in 1910, a century after the library was originally established. It is doubtless the best equipped institution of its kind in the whole of South America. The building stands by itself, and follows the modern method of division into sections. The main reading hall accommodates 136 persons, and there is a special room for those who wish to read the papers and reviews. Not the least interesting to the visitor are the old and valuable editions, and the drawings of old masters, which have made

the building a veritable museum of art.

Closely associated with the National library are the organizations connected with art. Especially is Brazilian literature encouraged by many academies of letters in various states, the central body being the Brazilian academy of letters, with its center in Rio de Janeiro. This academy limits its membership to the august number of 40 immortals. After one has spent days of interested investigation in such institutions as the National Institute of music, the National institute of painting and the Academy of fine arts, all of which organizations are also associated with the National library, one will be prepared to say that Brazil, at least, has been contributing her share of effort in making more notable, Portuguese art and letters.

#### Library Committee of the Drama League

To The Editor:

The undersigned has been appointed chairman of the Library committee of the Drama league. He is sending out to about 300 libraries a printed questionnaire bearing on coöperation between the library and the Drama league and similar organizations. If any librarian who reads these lines and has not received this questionnaire would like to fill out one of the blanks and will communicate with me, I shall be glad to send him one, and to include his statistics in the report of the Library committee.

Yours very truly,  
ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK,  
Librarian.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 7, 1917.

#### Suggestions for That Industrial Commission

May I say my word on "Inconsistencies" by Traveller in P. L. 22:57 and ask, Why must we have charging desks at standing height instead of regular desk height? I would rather stand all of the seven hours a day than sit on a stool one hour, but why not have the desk so the attendant can sit in a comfortable

swivel chair that she can get up from easily and have a small movable desk that can be placed on charging desk and can be used at busy hours when it is necessary to stand until the rush is over. I hope that industrial commission may be appointed right soon. It may help some librarians to get some improvements and help the Board to see through the librarian's eyes a bit more clearly.

M. D.

Kent, Ohio.

#### Paid by Both

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

May I express my appreciation of the consideration you have given in your February number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES to the Cleveland Survey report on "The public library and the public schools." It seems to me to be a carefully prepared digest of the report. There is, however, one mistake which I hope you may be able to correct in your forthcoming number. I refer to the statement of the Survey's recommendation as to the agreement between the two boards regarding the payment of the salary of the school librarians. I quote from the report:

The survey recommends that there be established a corps of teacher librarians, certified by the Library Board as librarians, by the Board of Education as teachers, paid by both boards, and appointed to their positions by the Board of Education.

The reviewer states that—  
The best arrangements for the supervision of the school libraries would be to have the libraries nominated by the Library Board, and the librarians appointed and paid by the Board of Education.

I, myself, heartily agree with the recommendation of the Survey. It seems to me entirely fair for both boards to share the cost of the salary of the school librarians, and that such joint responsibility is apt to lead to a fuller consideration by each board of the responsibilities involved in school library administration.

Very truly yours,  
W. H. BRETT,  
Librarian.

Cleveland public library.

### A. L. A. Publicity

The following is contributed by the A. L. A. publicity committee:

The January number of *Advertising and Selling* prints a list of 92 libraries "where files of *Advertising and Selling* may be consulted." Of the 92 libraries, 64 are public libraries or branches, 23 college and university, 1 state library, 1 club library, and 3 high school libraries.

The monthly list of new books and announcements of the A. K. Smiley public library, Redlands, California, is contained in the Redlands Chamber of Commerce bulletin. A similar plan is followed at Regina, Saskatchewan.

A list of "Rainy day books," issued by the Brockton, Massachusetts, public library is an attractive piece of printing. It is 4x9 inches in size, to fit a "long" envelope, with a gray plate-finish cover and eight pages "inside" on eggshell book.

Dr. A. E. Bostwick, librarian of the St. Louis public library, recently addressed the regular Tuesday luncheon meeting of the Advertising club of St. Louis on the topic, "How the library serves the business man."

The quarterly bulletin of the New Haven (Connecticut) public library carries six pages of paid advertising, representing 26 New Haven business houses. Three pages of advertising are carried on the cover, and six half-page advertisements are scattered through the 16 pages inside the cover.

The bulletin of the Osterhout Free library, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, carries in its date line a statement of the number of copies printed. For January the number is 500.

Using ordinary wax stencils and a revolving mimeograph, the Richmond (California) public library publishes a 4-page monthly bulletin specially for the children's room. The February number, beginning the second volume, has an attractive old-fashioned Valentine design on the front cover. Inside is a valentine verse, the story hour program for February, and the list of new books. The stock used is cream tint "Dresden pamphlet," well suited to work nicely in the duplicating process.

W. H. K.

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### A Plea for the Assistant Librarian

Will the editor permit another to say a word in behalf of these faithful ones who seldom venture a protest in their own favor? It has been my privilege for a number of years to attend the annual meetings of many library associations. As is usual on such occasions, a reception was always given to the visiting librarians and their assistants. In the re-

ceiving line, acting as hostess, was always the librarian of the city in which the association was being held, and the members of the library board of that city. But where, oh where, let me ask, was the assistant librarian? Usually standing round in some corner, a sort of outcast at the feast which she herself had helped to prepare.

I should like to ask if this is quite fair to the assistant librarian? Is she not an "assistant" hostess to the visitors? Should she not by rights stand at her librarian's side where she stands so faithfully when there is work to be done? Has she not given of her time and her labor and her strength that the convention may be a success, and that the visitors may think well of her library and her city? Then why so ignore her?

Are librarians selfish in this respect, or is it that they are only a little thoughtless of what is due their fellow worker? Or are they afraid that it might detract from the respect in which that assistant holds her librarian, should that librarian say to her on such an occasion, "well done, thou good and faithful helper. Thou hast been faithful when there was work to be done. Come thou now and stand by my side when there are guests to receive."

Believe me, it would not detract from that respect. Rather it would add to it.

VISITOR.

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### Sick Librarians

Dear PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

What has become of the idea of an emergency fund for librarians? It really is an important idea and ought not to be allowed to languish. If it were favorably accepted by a large number of librarians it could be easily put into practice without bearing heavily on anyone, and it would be a Heavensent support for many who deserve well of the profession.

If the A. L. A. or even the much maligned Institute were to appoint trustees who should receive and administer the funds, say 1 per cent of the annual salary of all the members for five years, a fund would be created that would yield untold

relief to those who are deserving, not only in supplying immediate relief in an emergency but in the assurance which would be felt that disaster did not lurk just around the corner waiting to pounce upon them the moment misfortune befell them. A friend recently told me of one of the girls on her staff who fell a victim to typhoid fever. Just having come from library school her surplus funds did not exist in a large amount and when the period of convalescence came, it was prolonged because of financial worries. There was a fine convalescent home not far away, but application there showed it would only admit those totally friendless, and was not for her kind. And thus it is. Philanthropic citizens take care of the very poor—the rich can always be provided for, but the in-betweens, people of refinement and limited incomes which stop at inopportune times, have nothing done for them. And again a library worker writes: "I caught a fiendish cold, because of the insane method of heating the library. I am still barking, all because I would not give up and go to bed. I really couldn't afford such luxury and besides as a matter of principle, I would not forfeit one penny of my miserable wage to the library by remaining away when I was ill by reason of conditions which the management had created."

Now if there was more of a fraternal feeling among library workers as there would be by a common personal interest, such sad stories could not be unfolded.

Will you not ask again for discussion leading to action by those who are representing the profession? If you will, thousands of library workers will be grateful to you and to them if they take action.

ANXIOUS.

#### A Photographer Photostat Expert

For the benefit of those who be in need of photostat reproduction of literary and other material in that part of the country, I wish to recommend the work of Mr Henry Hesse, 624-626 South Third street, Louisville, Kentucky. Mr Hesse is an expert photographer, and his work is the very best I have seen. His reproductions of maps have proven perfect. His mod-

esty makes his work even more deserving of commendation, and I hope that many librarians and archivists will share the discovery of Mr Hesse with me.

J. CHRISTIAN BAY.

#### The Same Book

"What every business woman should know, a complete guide to business usage and requirements, with an explanation of business terms and commercial forms," by Lillian Cecelia Kearney, Frederick A. Stokes, New York, c.1916, was published early last year. A little later, "What every business man should know, a complete guide to business usage and requirements, with an explanation of business terms and commercial forms," by L. C. Kearney, Frederick A. Stokes, New York, c.1916, was extensively advertised. With the exception of the title page and preface (p. vii and viii) the books are identical, the same plate being used for both books. It may not be a deliberate attempt to deceive book buyers, but the use of the author's full name in one and initials in another is not ethical, to say the least.

Very truly,

PURD B. WRIGHT, Librarian.  
Kansas City public library.

In this country and abroad, I have observed that those communities which have most enlightenment are the most progressive, the soundest and the most wholesome in every way. A public library ministers to enlightenment.

I believe that the greatest resource any city or state has is in its people. Given the right sort of people, all the material resources that come from land, from business and from commerce will be developed with rapid certainty. A public library helps to foster the right sort of people by affording to boys and girls and men and women the chance for informing themselves as to the best that is being thought and achieved in every field of knowledge.

I earnestly hope that the city may establish a public library, and establish it now.—*Rt. Rev. D. J. O'Connell, Bishop of Richmond, Va.*

## Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$2 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$8 a year
Single number	- - - - -	25 cents
Foreign subscriptions	- - - - -	\$2.25 a year

Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1897.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an Exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuation of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

**Catalogers wanted**—What has happened to the catalogers? From all over the country comes an appeal for somebody to attract the cataloger to institutions varying from a medical library used by 45 doctors to an institution of the first class. Salaries are graded from \$840 to \$1400 and no takers! There is any number of workers in other lines of library work who are willing to be considered but the supply of catalogers is short. Who knows why?

**And they did**—The old adage that "Constant dripping wears away stone," was verified in the recent action of the A. L. A. Publishing Board. Since the foundation of the *A. L. A. Booklist* certain members of the A. L. A. have insisted on a change in the size of the *Booklist* and also in the name.

The Proceedings of the meeting of the A. L. A. Publishing Board held in Chicago, December 29, contains the following:

Miss Massee exhibited to the Board page proof of a proposed enlarged page size of

the *A. L. A. Booklist* and explained the advantages of the new size. The Board adopted her recommendations for change beginning with the new volume, October, 1917, and tentatively invites suggestions as to a change of name for the magazine.

It is to be hoped, since the suggestions of the objectors have been acted upon that the latter will turn to and contribute to the effectiveness of the effort which they have labored for so long and give to the association, in construction, the strength which they have manifested heretofore in supporting their own views, and incidentally prove the righteousness of their former contentions.

**Civil service in libraries**—Librarians throughout the country will be deeply interested and will wish abundant success to the outcome of the contest in Massachusetts between the Civil Service commission which desires to include state library employees within its rule, and the Library commission, library clubs, boards of trustees and librarians who are opposed to being thus included.

A bill has been introduced into the Legislature excluding library employees from the Civil Service. It seems strange that so progressive a state as Massachusetts should even consider putting educational institutions under the Civil Service. It works more to the detriment than to the betterment wherever it has been tried. There is not a single instance of libraries being under the Civil Service where those who are held responsible for the work have not said that the work has been handicapped by the requirements which have been imposed on the library by the Civil Service rules.

The almost utter impossibility, at least the extreme disagreeableness of getting rid of any incompetent workers under Civil Service, destroys the unit of efficiency at least one-third and results in

the library and the librarian being put on trial something after the manner of an ordinary offender. The situation is thus detrimental to the morale of the staff and the service because it engenders a feeling of retaliation and resentment among the inefficient that is very bad for everybody concerned. Librarians everywhere will hold with the Massachusetts library commission, will hope that they will be able to make out their case in the legislature and that the example will be followed wherever library work is afflicted with outside Civil Service.

**Where is the staff?**—The following letter from a librarian of eminent standing in the profession, voices again what PUBLIC LIBRARIES has called attention to before and it is given here entire although it was not written for publication.

For a long time I have had in mind to call your attention to a practice frequently followed in printing library reports, which hardly conforms with the character of public libraries as an educational institution, in the hope that you might find occasion now and then to say something which will gradually improve conditions.

I have in mind the rather too frequent practice of library boards and librarians of not giving enough prominence in their annual reports to the personnel of the library staff. I have before me the report of the Cincinnati public library for 1915-16, which is probably neither better nor worse than most such reports, in this respect, but happens to have come to me yesterday and I will use it as an illustration. The names of the board of trustees and the officers of the board very properly come on an early page of the report, but the members of the staff are put in the body of the report along with the usual library statistics; and the general impression that I get from looking over the report is that the staff is not given as much prominence and credit in the report as the importance of the work of the staff in an educational institution demands. The better high schools and colleges habitually give a place of prominence to the list of faculty members. Would not the general effect on the public and also on the staff be better if more of our libraries gave a position of greater prominence to the staff in their annual reports?

I do not wish you to print this letter; I am writing it to just let you know that I have been thinking about the matter, and in the hope that you will be able from time to time to say and do something that will bring greater public recognition to the members of the library staffs of our libraries, so far as that recognition is affected by the place of the staff in annual reports.

There is no good reason why the names of the staff should not be included in the many reports from which they are omitted. It is probably a mistaken notion of economy, yet one can see, on examination of the many of the reports, other places where economy could be more fittingly practiced. A copy of the report referred to in the letter is not at hand so that no comment is intended on that particular library, but circumstances duplicate the occasion of it, many, many times every year.

**The county library idea**—The idea of county library service has found increased support this year in the heart of the Middle-West as witnessed by simultaneous efforts in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois to have county library laws passed by the legislatures of these states. In all of these states, some form of county library service has been in existence for some time but none of them has a law applicable to the whole state.

There is no argument for an urban library service that is not doubly pertinent for rural communities and a wise consideration of the mutual relations of these two factors of community life, directs that equal provision be made for both according to their needs if public attention and money be given to either.

The laws in all three states are similar in essentials, except that the Ohio law provides for a state grant of \$500 to each county district that raises a similar amount for library purposes—the first time that this New England idea has come so far west. A difference in the laws lies in the provisions in local government and other points affected by different authorities already existing, but the main point for which one feels the greatest anxiety, is the interest, intelli-

gence and singleness of purpose with which the laws will be administered when once they are enacted.

Whatever the machinery and equipment, the character of those chosen to administer the business of an institution decides the merit of its achievement. The Ohio bill places the appointment of trustees in the hands of its county judges. There is ground for hope here, that these officers chosen as fit to wear "the white ermine of the law," will realize the value of making the board of trustees in each county, a high-grade, non-partisan body that will apply itself unreservedly to realizing the educational possibilities of their respective localities that lie within the opportunity of library service.

In the Indiana bill, special care is given to the makeup of the library board. The county board appoints two members, one of whom shall be a woman; the county superintendent of schools shall appoint two, one of whom shall be a woman, and the judge of the circuit court shall appoint three, one of whom shall be a woman. The bill provides that the appointees shall be "persons of well-known probity, integrity, business ability, and experience, who are fitted for the character of work they are to perform."

In Illinois, the power to appoint the library board is put into the hands of the County boards, a less desirable provision than in the other two states from the point of freedom from political and personal prejudice.

In Ohio, the examining board is made up of the librarians of the two largest libraries in the state, the state librarian and two persons representing rural interests chosen by the State superintendent of public instruction. This seems a very promising arrangement from the library point of view. In the Illinois bill (See p. 126) the examining power lies in the Library commission, which may be a thoroughly political body as at present constituted, made up as it is of the secretary of state, chairman and two members of unrestricted appointment by the governor.

Word comes from Mr E. R. Perry, librarian, Public library, Los Angeles,

Cal., with regard to certification of librarians, which states that a bill providing for certification was drawn up some time ago by the Legislative committee of the California library association but it was deemed wise to postpone the introduction of the bill into the Legislature until the next session in order to take plenty of time for working out properly all phases of the question.

The idea of general certification is held up in Ohio awaiting clearer plans of action.

#### **Unique Publicity**

Attention is drawn to page V of the advertisement section where will be seen the rather remarkable notice which is of special interest for several reasons to the readers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES. As will be seen, it is a special invitation from Louisville to the A. L. A. meeting. Two others quite as interesting will follow this.

A committee called together to arrange for the meeting of the A. L. A. at Louisville, decided on this way of attracting attention to it. Accordingly on the first of the year, the staff of the Public library at Louisville was asked to compete with original drawings which were to be suggestive of Louisville and the convention. Twenty-four members of the staff submitted drawings from which a jury consisting of three Louisville citizens, selected nine drawings from the 24, each of which will appear once in PUBLIC LIBRARIES, the *Library Journal* and *Special Libraries*.

The design which received first award was drawn by Miss Ruth Theobald, assistant of the Crescent Hill branch library. This drawing is the one which appears on page V. The second winning design was submitted by Miss Ella C. Warren, assistant in the circulation department of the main library. This points out in a most significant way that Louisville is within easy reach of all. The third best design was offered by Miss Berneita C. Bennett, a member of the apprentice class, and shows the sun with A. L. A. on its

face, shining down on a map of Kentucky and centering on Louisville, and carries the line, "The Spot in the sun, June 21-27."

Those who submitted the six other acceptable designs were Miss Esther Spohn, assistant in the station department, Miss Clara L. Behrens, stenographer in the main office, Miss Antoinette M. Hubbuch, stenographer in the order department, and Miss Florence Lee Taylor, assistant in the circulation department.

Mr Settle presented each of the successful contributors with a token of appreciation for the work submitted.

#### The New Librarian of Boston

The appointment of Mr Charles Belden as librarian of Boston public library, will meet with much satisfaction in library circles, and particularly among those who have known the many fine qualities of head and heart which distinguish Mr Belden's attitude toward library service. The Public library commission of Massachusetts, has accomplished more definite and real work in the time that Mr Belden has been its moving spirit than in any of its previous periods. His work is entirely free from the spectacular and is characterized by dignity, thoriness, sincerity, optimism and courtesy, always.

Mr Belden's training has been an all round one and his place in library work is of his own choosing. He was graduated from Harvard college in '95, Harvard law school in '98 and was secretary of the Faculty on law at Harvard from 1899 to 1902. He was assistant librarian of the Harvard law library '02-'08, and was then made librarian of the Social law library. He became state librarian of Massachusetts in June '09. He is a member of many professional and learned societies and ranks high in the circles where he is known. A quiet man, but he is always ready to meet courteously, any approach that is made in sincerity. His appointment as librarian of Boston public library forecasts a term of usefulness and excellence which has not been excelled by any of his predecessors in the annals of this institution.

#### As Others See Us

Richard H. Dana, president of the National civil service reform association, was invited by the Massachusetts library club to explain why the Civil service commission thought that the libraries should be included in the rule of Civil service. As his first reason, Mr Dana declared that drunkenness had been the curse of government service except under civil service and that Librarian Spofford at the Library of Congress had to provide a special room in which to lock drunken employees with whom politics saddled him! The Bureau of printing, long exempted from civil service was so impeded by supernumeraries that a shed had to be built for them to sleep in. Employees of libraries who hesitate to testify publicly, for fear of retaliation, are complaining with increasing frequency to the civil service commissioners about gross partisanship in libraries here and there throughout the state.

In reply to the statement that Civil service cannot test personality, Mr Dana said that personal address could always be cultivated. In some Massachusetts libraries, now blessed with unhampered control by librarian and trustees, he said he had seen employees practically throw a book at an applicant and behave otherwise with distinct surliness.

Mr Wadlin, in reply to Mr Dana, said: Civil service is adapted to select employees whose duties are specific, exact and direct, but not to meet the complex needs of the library service in Massachusetts. It is impossible for Civil service as at present organized, to do the work as satisfactorily as library trustees are doing it under their own régime. If the library service is satisfactory, why include it in civil service to parallel something that has already been done.

Mr Dana made mention of the librarian of Chicago who had been chosen under civil service by which that city had obtained the best librarian in the country.

Mr Wadlin called attention to the

fact that the ordinary rules of civil service were abandoned in the Chicago selection and that the selection was really made by a body of trained librarians rather than the civil service. The civil service does not give a free field in choosing and the members of the civil service are not themselves chosen by the civil service examination. Why should people be told that it was a good plan to put library employees under the power of men who were selected for other reasons?

#### The Death Toll

The death of H. M. Utley for 30 years connected with the Public library of Detroit, removes from the field of activity another faithful worker who was one of the helpful pioneers in bringing the public library into its present field of usefulness. Mr Utley was possessed of literary ability and was, in his younger days, a newspaper man and kept in close touch with the public press to the end of his activity. He was a kindly, genial gentleman whom everybody liked and was more than once honored by his fellows by being placed in positions of honor and trust. He was elected president of the A. L. A. in 1894, serving during the conference at Denver in 1905. He was one of the founders of the Michigan library association and its president for many years of active service. Those who knew him in general library circles, will give assent to the following resolutions offered by the Library commission of Detroit:

Resolution upon the death of Henry M. Utley, librarian emeritus:

*Resolved*, That the Commission of the public library of the city of Detroit, on the death of Henry Munson Utley, librarian for many years, desires to record its appreciation of the large and careful part he played in laying the foundation of the present library system.

Coming to the work in middle age, with a wide experience in literary and educational activities, he entered with quiet enthusiasm upon the task of bringing this library into line with the modern methods that were then arousing the library world. Becoming at once a member of the American library association, he was a constant attendant upon its meetings, and served it both as

recorder and as president. Thus keeping in touch with the larger movement of the times, he guided with a conservative hand the fortunes of the institution entrusted to him, from its small beginnings to its larger place in the life of the community.

Mr Utley received the honor of appointment as librarian emeritus for life upon his retirement from active service. Detroit's first branch library bears his name, perpetuating his memory to citizens yet to come. Many throughout the state and country will ever hold his life and efforts in grateful remembrance. For over a quarter of a century he served the city as librarian, giving to it the whole strength of his life.

*Wherefore*, Be it resolved that this Library Commission gratefully acknowledges its appreciation of his service to the library and the city and extends to his family its deep sympathy in their loss.

Many librarians will learn with regret of the death of Mrs Anne F. Van Schelle of Belgium who had been acquiring information about library work in this country for the last two years. Her death occurred the first week of February as she was on the eve of returning to Belgium.

Mrs Van Schelle worked indefatigably from the first invasion of Belgium to relieve the suffering men, women but particularly the children. Her big plan was to develop at Papenvoort, her country place, an agricultural and vocational colony along modern and scientific lines. She visited the United States and England several times in behalf of her plans which she was very anxious for educational people in these two countries to support in counsel and direction of efforts. She was present at the mid-winter meeting in Chicago and secured the promise of a coöperating committee from the A. L. A. to help develop a system of traveling libraries throughout the provinces in which she was interested.

Mrs Van Schelle's last trip to America was made on the ill-fated Adriatic and the shock that came to her with the torpedoing of the vessel produced an undermined state of health which made her an easy victim of pneumonia.

She was an enthusiast in her work which it is hoped will be continued as a memorial of her devotion.

The news of the death of Mary B. Lindsay, librarian of the Public library

of Evanston, Illinois, brought a distinct shock to the many friends to whom she had endeared herself by long years of association. She was possessed of a rare disposition of gentle strength, extreme unselfishness, fine regard for the feelings and rights of others and a mistaken adherence to duty which was in a large measure, accountable for her continued ill-health and final decease.

Such an instance as the death of Miss Lindsay ought to bring a lesson to those who are perhaps in no less measure, striving even as she did to carry obligations beyond their strength and at the same time endeavor to make up community deficiency for which there cannot be the least excuse. Miss Lindsay had high ideals of what the library ought to be in the community and carried for many years the burden which her community should have borne or else have been left without that quality of service for which it was not willing to pay. Library service is sometimes considered a missionary effort, a mistaken notion always, and more particularly so when it involves the sacrifice of the librarian's strength, means and time, in endeavoring to supply the community with the better things of life for which their appreciation is not sufficient to induce them to pay adequately. Up to a certain point, duty does remain with the librarian, beyond that, her effort is sacrifice and sacrifice that is not always necessary or even wise.

#### Memorial from the Chicago library club

It seems fitting that when Death severs the connection between such an organization as the Chicago library club and one of its highly esteemed members such as was the late Mary B. Lindsay, suitable comment on the severance of relations should be publicly made. It is, therefore, with the sad realization of what her absence from the club and from the community will mean that the Chicago library club, at this time, wishes to record its high regard for a much esteemed member lately departed, and to express its sorrow at the untimely death which removes her from the ranks.

The death of Mary B. Lindsay removes from the membership of the Chicago library club one who for 20 years reflected credit upon its membership and contributed to the elevation of the professional spirit in its circles. Her death deprives the club

of one whose personality, made up as it was of gentleness, dignity, good-fellowship, optimism, courtesy, poise and sterling worth, was an asset, the absence of which will leave a definite lack and a sad memory for many a long day. It is fitting, therefore, that this club resolves that this example of fine character, professional excellence and high degree of ability, forms a worthy inspiration for library workers.

Miss Mary B. Lindsay came to the Evanston public library as its librarian in 1894 and under her untiring efforts, unselfish devotion and intelligent administration, that institution developed from a few thousand volumes in rented, crowded quarters to the possession of its present beautiful building, its valuable collection of thousands of books and a library service, that considering the support and assistance which the library has received from the community it serves, is not excelled by any library in the surrounding country. It may be fairly questioned in this connection whether the recent untimely death of Miss Lindsay was not, in a very large measure, due to her unselfish support of the burden of library service for the city of Evanston in its years of stress and indifference, to a far larger degree than any community has a right to ask of any public servant.

Miss Lindsay ranked as 1207 in the membership of the American Library Association, of which she was an interested and helpful member, always ready to work in its cause but seldom permitted to attend its meetings. She was a charter member of the Illinois library association and her counsel and service, cheerfully given, in its lines of development, were always valuable and consistent. She became a member of the Chicago library club as soon as she took up her position at Evanston. She served as one of its vice-presidents for four terms and at various times was a valuable member of important committees. Her contributions to library literature, though not extensive, were always practical and full of useful information.

The library circle of this community has lost in the death of Miss Lindsay a member who was a credit to its endeavor, the membership of the Chicago library club has lost an honored and well beloved friend, for the loss of whom both will be the poorer.

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A series of book-marks have been prepared and printed by Mr Ward H. Edwards, librarian of William Jewell college, Liberty, Missouri. These book-marks are beautifully printed and colored and carry on the back of them, a quotation from some notable writer. The quotation is prettily set off by an ornamental initial letter.

### Michigan State Library Treasures

A memorial presented in January to the members of the Legislature of Michigan by Mrs Mary C. Spencer, set forth the need of a new State library building for Michigan. Attention was called to some of the possessions which are in danger of destruction from their insecurity in the present state capitol at Lansing. Part of the memorial read as follows:

The value of the state library has been placed at nearly \$400,000 and the following sets of books could hardly be replaced at any price:

Records and Briefs of the United States supreme court from 1869 to date.

Records and briefs of the Michigan supreme court; complete with the exception of three or four of the earlier volumes which we have not been able to collect.

Michigan territorial and state laws and documents which, if destroyed, could never be replaced.

American law periodicals; one of the most valuable sets in the library.

The Supreme Court reports of every state in the Union. Single volumes of some of these sets have brought \$50.

English colonial reports, a set of which we have been fifteen years in completing.

English, Irish and Scotch reports to date; original editions which have not been in the market for many years.

Leading newspapers in the state, from 1831 to date.

*Gentlemen's Magazine*; complete from 1731.

Sets of all of the great English and American periodicals which have been out of the market for years.

Collection of town histories and genealogies, in which family records and town histories are given from 1640. The value of these books cannot be estimated as the state of Michigan has one of the most complete collections in the United States.

### When You Buy a Book\*

#### Try This Test

Is it well made?

Is it written in good English?

Is it true to life?

Does it increase your knowledge?

Is it helpful in business?

Is it wholesome?

Does it lead to right living?

Does it enrich your life?

Do you love it as a friend?

Are you proud to own it?

\*Issued on a card by the Public library, Rochester, N. Y.

### A New Style Branch Building

The Chicago public library is making an experiment in a departure away from the conventional plan of branch library buildings. They were moved to do this because of the high cost of ground with considerable frontage. It is possible in Chicago to buy ground economically where the depth of the lot is considerably greater than the width, particularly in the more populous sections of the city.

The first branch, the Woodlawn, on which the experiment is to be tried, is the thirty-seventh branch of the Public library but the first branch to be entirely provided for out of library funds. It is only the fourth branch to be housed in independent quarters designed for library use, the other three branches being gifts. Thirty-three out of 37 branches are housed in rented quarters, in schools, in institutional houses and in rooms.

The building for the Woodlawn branch is placed on a lot 42x125 feet with alleys on both sides assuring perpetual light and air. The lot cost \$8000. On this a building covering the entire lot was placed at the cost of \$18,500.

The library is located on one of the liveliest business streets in its section of the city. On the street front,\* a tapestry brick facade rises to a two story height, the second floor containing a work room and staff rest rooms. Beyond this there is only one story carrying the main floor at the street level. The charging desk occupies the front end, under the overhanging second floor and commanding the entrance. At the rear, the floor has been elevated to form a spacious platform which will serve as the children's alcove, with leaded windows set in hinged frames and a special emergency exit. The side walls are lined with bookcases and the long expanse of floor space has been skilfully broken by book cases, magazine racks and file cases set through the middle. Tables and chairs to accommodate 200 persons are provided and shelf space for 14,000v. The entire conception is frankly an experiment and the

\*See frontispiece.

Board of directors and the officials of the Chicago public library look forward with confidence to the complete justification of their faith that Woodlawn branch will prove a happy solution of a present problem and pattern, or at all events, a point of departure for what may be called another Chicago plan.

The building was opened to the public on Lincoln's birthday, February 12, with appropriate ceremonies.

#### Required hours per week in other libraries

Libraries	Hours per week	Vacations.
Pasadena public .....	38	10 days
University of Illinois.....	39	
East Saint Louis public.....	40	14 working days
Harvard College .....	40	1 month
New York College.....	40	1 month, seniors, 3 weeks, juniors.
Newberry, Chicago .....	40	2 weeks
Somerville, Mass., public.....	40.5	4 weeks
Davenport, Iowa, public.....	40.75	3 weeks
Detroit public .....	41	4 weeks, seniors, 3 weeks, juniors.
Dubuque, Iowa, public.....	41 (39)	1 month
Northwestern university .....	41.5	2 months
Salem, Mass., public .....	41.5	3 weeks
Worcester, Mass., public .....	41.5	4 weeks, seniors, 3 weeks, juniors
Cedar Rapids, Iowa, public .....	42 (40)	
Evansville, Ind., public .....	42	1 month, librarian, 3 weeks, assistants
Gary, Ind., public .....	42	1 month
John Crerar, Chicago.....	42	26 working days
Los Angeles public .....	42	26 working days
Newark, N. J., public .....	42	1 month
Oak Park, Ill., public .....	42 (40)	1 month
Pittsburg Carnegie public .....	42	26 working days
Sioux City, Iowa, public .....	42	1 month
Springfield, Ill., public .....	43	3 weeks
Denver, Colo., public .....	43.5	3 weeks
Chicago public .....	45	
Rockford public .....	45	7 years, 2 weeks; 5 years, 3 weeks; Librarian, 1 month.

**Summary:**  
26 libraries, average per week, 41.5 hours

#### Vacations:

- 1 library, 2 months
- 11 libraries, 1 month to all
- 3 libraries, 1 month seniors, 3 weeks juniors
- 3 libraries, 1 month librarian, 3 weeks assistants
- 4 libraries, 3 weeks to all
- 2 libraries, less than 3 weeks

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EX-LIBRARIAN.

#### An Opportunity for Book Buyers

Mr J. C. Bay, head classifier of the John Crerar library, Chicago, and the director of its medical department, will go to Denmark about April 1, for a stay of three months. Mr Bay has received a scholarship from the Danish American society which he will use in giving to the Danish people correct information con-

cerning Danish Americans. While in Scandinavia, Mr Bay will serve as collector and buyer of books and other reference materials for several of the large American libraries that are available themselves at this time, of his well-known bibliographic knowledge as well as his knowledge of the sources of European material.

### The Chinese Collection of the Library of Congress\*

The Library of Congress has added largely to its Chinese collection during the past few years and as a result now stands first in this field among libraries of the New World and probably third among the Chinese libraries in Western countries. It has about 40,000 v. of Chinese printed books and manuscripts bound in book form, occupying 1,594 feet of shelf space. Besides these there are large Japanese and considerable Korean, Manchu, Mongol and Tibetan collections, which in many cases supplement the Chinese collection proper, a large proportion of these books being verbatim reprints or else exact translations of Chinese works. There are some 10,000 v. in these collections, making 50,000 v. in all in the East Asiatic collections of the Library of Congress.

Not only does the Library of Congress stand first in the New World in the number of its Chinese books, but also it takes the first place among all Chinese libraries in Western countries in having a classified card catalog which covers not only all independent works but also all works included in the *Ts'ung shu*, or collections of reprints that constitute so vital a part of any working Chinese library.

The proper classification of this material has been difficult, but finally the catalog division of the Library of Congress, with the collaboration of Dr Hing Kwai Fung and Prof S. C. Kiang, and through the persistent energy of Mr M. J. Hagerty, has been able to utilize the system of classification employed in Ch'ien Lung's Imperial catalog of Chinese literature (*Ssu ku ch'üan shu tsung mu*), adapted to modern library use by assigning letters (A, B, C, D) to the four great classes recognized by Chinese bibliographers, and decimal numbers to the sub-classes. This systematic carrying out of the classification of the Chinese books in the Library of Congress and of

\*A talk by Dr. Walter T. Swingle of the Bureau of plant industry, before the District of Columbia library association on December 13, 1916. Reported by Dr. T. W. Koch.

the reprints of the *Ts'ung shu* has made the Library of Congress collection without question the most easily accessible to scholars of any Chinese library in Western countries.

The Library of Congress, however, not only has one of the largest and probably the best arranged collection in Western countries, but also is fortunate in possessing many very rare or very valuable works which would be highly prized even in China. An exhibition recently prepared in the Library of Congress shows nine Sung, Kin and Yüan dynasty imprints, and two early Ming imprints, printed before 1450 A.D. Some of these works are of great interest, being editions supposed to have been lost even in the Orient. Besides these early works dating from the twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the same exhibit contains authentic material illustrating the three largest books in the world. They are: 1) The Great Ming Encyclopedia, *Yung lo ta tien*, begun in 1403 and finished in 1409, which originally embraced 22,937 large folio volumes about one-half inch thick and which took the equivalent of eight thousand years' work in compilation; 2) The Imperial encyclopedia, *Tu shu chi ch'eng*, the largest printed book in China, embracing 5,044 volumes; and 3) The *Ssu ku ch'üan shu* manuscript, a monumental collection made by the order of the Manchu Emperor, Ch'ien Lung, from 1773 to 1782, and including all of the principal works in the Chinese language. It embraces 3,511 works in about 40,000 v. Of the Imperial encyclopedia, which alone of the three was printed, the Library has volumes on exhibition from all three printed editions and has a complete set of the second large-print edition. The other two works exist only in manuscript form, but two volumes of the *Yung lo ta tien* are exhibited, one the property of the Library and one loaned. Of the *Ssu ku ch'üan shu* manuscript one complete work in nine volumes is shown, which bears the seal of the Emperor Ch'ien Lung and probably belonged to his private library.

Many of the ancient and rare books in the Library of Congress show by the

seal imprints that they formerly belonged to Imperial libraries, some showing Imperial seals as far back as the Ming dynasty.

The Library of Congress collection covers all fields of Chinese literature, but special attention has been given in the past few years to securing works on subjects that seem especially important at this time. For instance, particular attention has been given to the purchase of Chinese geographical works, a branch of literature of great importance, since it not only gives accurate physical descriptions of the various parts of China, but interesting accounts of the history and natural productions of the 1,800 and more administrative districts of China. The Library of Congress now contains more than 450 works of this character and there are in addition some 260 in the John Crerar library of Chicago which are not duplicated in Washington. The two collections together amounting to more than 700 geographical works, make this country richer than any other Western country in works of this character, France being next with a few more than 600 of such works in the libraries of Paris.

The Chinese works in the Library of Congress are in constant use by the investigators of the Department of agriculture in connection with exploration work being carried on in China looking toward the discovery and introduction into this country of valuable new crop plants.

It is probable that as the Chinese collection of the Library of Congress becomes better known it will be largely used by all investigators of East Asiatic subjects.

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I say the profoundest service that poems or any other writings can do for their reader, is not merely to satisfy the intellect or supply something polished and interesting, nor even to depict great passions, or persons, or events, but to fill him with vigorous and clean manliness, religiousness, and give him good heart as a radical possession and habit.—*Walt Whitman.*

### Good Publicity

In the recent "Good Book week" at Davenport, Iowa, a circular with the heading "I am the Public Library, Davenport's mental service station," and followed by a picture of the library building, was distributed. Five pages of catchy sentences with striking headlines made up the reading part. The following is a sample page:

*I am  
the  
Public Library*

I am the storehouse of knowledge in this city.

I am opportunity.

I am the continuation school for all.

I hold within myself the desires, hopes, theories, philosophies, impressions, doctrines, culture, attainments, experiences, and sciences of all ages.

I am a house of wisdom and an institution of happiness.

I am supported by the people for the people.

I offer you the opportunity to know all there is to know about your work.

I am for those who would enjoy fiction, poetry, philosophy, biography, or learn more about business, trade and science.

I have books for all tastes and needs and creeds.

I am free to the public to profit from and enjoy.

I am in the care of courageous attendants whose duty it is to help you to profit from me.

I open my doors as a great public mental recreation ground for your leisure hours.

*I am  
the  
Public Library*

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"The people seem to have recognized a thing that is their own, a thing that they can really avail themselves of, with a feeling of proprietorship which as yet they have not developed with regard to public schools, parks and hospitals."

### American History Course

The Bureau of Education has sent out a leaflet in its Reading course, No. 10, on American history. It is made up of a list of books on American history which was compiled with the assistance of Dr W. H. Mace, Dr W. F. Gordy, Dr Franklin L. Riley, and Dr W. Starr Myers. To any person giving satisfactory evidence of having read any 18 of the 23 books of the list there will be awarded a certificate bearing the seal of the United States bureau of education and signed by the commissioner of education.

Many public libraries in all parts of the country have these books on their shelves and those that have not could scarcely make a better list on American history.

#### Books in American History course

European background of American history. Cheyney. Harper, \$2.

The Colonies. Thwaites. Longmans, \$1.25.

Montcalm and Wolfe. Parkman. Little, 2v, each \$1.50.

Old Virginia and her neighbors. Fiske. Houghton, 2v, each \$1.80.

Beginnings of New England. Fiske. Houghton, \$1.80.

Men, women, and manners in colonial times. Fisher. Lippincott, 2v, \$3.

Dutch and Quaker colonies in America. Fiske. Houghton, 2v, each \$1.80.

The American revolution. Fiske. Houghton, 2v, each \$1.80.

Lecky's American revolution. Woodburn (editor). Appleton, \$1.50.

Story of the revolution. Lodge. Scribner, \$3.

Critical period of American history. Fiske. Houghton, \$1.80.

Henry Clay. Schurz. Houghton, 2v, each \$1.25.

Life of George Washington. Wilson. Harper, \$2.

Rise of the New West. Turner. Harper, \$2.

Winning of the West. Roosevelt. Putnam, 2v, each \$2.50.

Economic history of the United States. Bogart. Longmans, \$1.75.

Division and reunion. Wilson. Longmans, \$1.25.

The Lower South in American history. Brown. Macmillan, \$1.50.

Abraham Lincoln. Morse. Houghton, 2v, each \$1.25.

Reconstruction, political and economic. Dunning. Harper, \$2.

National problems (1884-1897). Dewey. Harper, \$2.

America as a world power. Latané. Harper, \$2.

America in ferment. Haworth. Bobbs, \$1.50.

### Nine Months with the Alphabet

A librarian of great promise uses the following in summing up his new work at the end of the calendar year:

Art gallery equipped and three oil exhibitions held.

Business men enthused with library service.

City Council made aware of the library influence.

Delighted teachers with N. E. A. high-school exhibit.

Extended free loan limit to county line.

Frequent book orders, staff meetings, lobby exhibits, etc., held.

Guarantor system removed.

High-school branch established.

Inestimable public interest and support secured.

Juvenile summer reading course conducted.

Kulture in practical books emphasized.

Library membership taken in local civic and commercial clubs.

Much coöperation with schools.

Newspapers lend support to a remarkable degree.

Outlying districts petition for branches.

Publicity used extensively.

Quick results in a splendid reference department.

Red tape eliminated in loan department.

School collection department enlarged.

Three new stations installed.

Use made of school community rooms for stations.

Various departments reorganized and correlated.

Welcome extended to all classes and creeds.

Xtra details too numerous to mention.

"Your Library" constantly emphasized.

Zealous work done by smaller staff on larger salary.

Etc. to be continued in our next.

Some recent figures compiled at the Public library of Washington, D. C., gives the cost of circulation of books in 10 cities.

Chicago, 19½ cents; Philadelphia, 19½ cents; Buffalo, 28½ cents; New York, 29 cents; Detroit, 33½ cents; Los Angeles, 35 cents; St. Louis, 37 cents; Cincinnati, 40 cents; Pittsburg, 41 cents; Cleveland, 54 cents; Boston, 58 cents.

**Library Affairs in Saskatchewan**

A memorial addressed to the Minister of education of the province of Saskatchewan, Canada, has been presented by Mr R. C. Honeyman of Regina, for the Saskatchewan library association. Some of the most important points of the memorial are as follows:

After calling attention to the necessity for legislation, better organization and better administration of library affairs, the memorial offers the assistance of the association in any way possible in preparing legislation, furnishing practical advice or in educational work that will help attain the object proposed. The development of the library movement in general and particularly in the province, is traced for the information of the new minister of education and the premier of the province. Attention is called to the fact that a system of traveling libraries had been established but that no official report on the matter is available for public information, and such a report is urged both in justice to the work that has been done and to its possibilities for the future. The work is still hampered by lack of funds and it is suggested that the Government appropriate money from the operation of the liquor dispensaries for the better conduct of libraries.

The memorial also contains a request that the administration of the Public libraries act be placed in the hands of the Department of education which request is a repeated one, and the illness of the former minister accounts for the lack of action in that particular.

It also points out the very superior library service which is rendered in the province of Ontario by the Department of education under the direction of the superintendent, with the statement that there are many features in the Ontario service that may be put in operation in Saskatchewan.

The memorial also presents a request for a grant to enable the association to have a permanent speaker on the program of the Educational association, to pay the expenses of the country librarians to attend the annual meeting of the

association and in a measure to meet the general expenses of the work of the association.

**A. L. A. Headquarters Notes**

The secretary of the A. L. A. is a member of the Committee of one hundred appointed by the United States Commissioner of education to study the Americanization problem. Mr Utley desires to collect for the committee, definite information as to how the various public school and college libraries are assisting in the problem of effective evening schools for foreigners. Newspaper announcements, posters and information of any kind will be welcomed and utilized by the committee in its study of the question.

The A. L. A. Headquarters' office has been collecting photographs relating to libraries and thanks to the cordial and generous contributions of librarians all over the country, a very excellent though not as yet large, collection has been assembled. A few of the subjects represented are: Exteriors and interiors of library buildings, varying widely in expense, size and character; Exteriors and interiors showing furniture and equipment of various rooms and departments; Work for children; Work with foreigners; Window displays; Deposit stations and rural deposits of books. Photographs from the collection will be lent to any reliable person without charge except the cost of transportation. This collection has involved time, effort and expense and librarians are urged to avail themselves of its use. Libraries where stereopticon views are used or where there is need of pictures for newspaper articles are invited to write to A. L. A. Headquarters for examples and advice.

The *Proceedings* of the American Library Institute for 1916 may be purchased from the A. L. A. Headquarters, 78 E. Washington Street, Chicago, price \$2.

An article on the Public library as an index to culture, appears in the December number of *School and Society*.

### Library Meetings

**Chicago**—The February meeting of the Chicago library club was held on the eighth at the library and museum of the Chicago historical society. Mr Lyons, first vice-president, presided in the absence of the president. Resolutions on the death of Miss Mary B. Lindsay, librarian of the Evanston public library, read by Mr Merrill, were adopted.

Mr Roden had planned the program for the evening, which consisted of papers and talks on special collections in libraries of Chicago and vicinity. Mr Hanson spoke for the University of Chicago, Dr Andrews for the John Crerar library, Mr Roden for the Chicago public library, Professor Hatfield for Northwestern University, Mr Josephson for the Swedish-American society, and Miss McIlvaine for the Chicago historical society. Mr Roden read a report on collections in the theological libraries of Chicago.

The practical result of the meeting will be the publication of a handbook of special collections in Chicago libraries embodying the papers of the evening and as much additional matter as can be collected.

D. ASHLEY HOOKER.

**District of Columbia**—The District of Columbia library association held its regular bi-monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, December 13, at the public library, with the president, Mr Wm. A. Slade, in the chair.

The association listened to a very interesting lecture by Walter T. Swingle of the U. S. department of agriculture, who spoke upon the collection of Chinese printed books in the Library of Congress.

Mr Swingle traced the history of the Chinese printed book, exhibiting examples of rubbings of inscriptions from monuments, including the famous Nestorian monument of 784 A. D., the early rolls with their various changing and developing forms, to the Chinese books as known today. Books were first printed in China about 593 A. D., but the art did not make any considerable progress until from the year 950 to 1600.

The collection of the Library of Congress, which numbers over 40,000v. is probably the third largest in the world outside of the Orient. The collection was begun by a gift of several thousand volumes from the Chinese emperor, brought to the United States by Caleb Cushing about the middle of the last century; over 6,000 more were the gift of William Woodville Rockhill; at the close of the Louisiana Purchase exposition in 1904 the standard works of Chinese literature there exhibited and numbering 1,965 volumes, were presented to the United States by the Chinese government; another notable addition was the famous Chinese encyclopedia of 5,041 volumes which was brought by the special ambassador Tang-Shao-i, as a gift from the Chinese government. Among the more recent additions by purchase are over 17,000 volumes procured by Dr Fung, who had done considerable work in cataloging and classifying the collection and about 5,000 volumes purchased by Mr Swingle while in China and Japan in 1915. The collection contains many interesting and valuable works and nine books printed before 1368.

It has been thoroughly classified following the Chinese classification as given in the Imperial catalog of 1790. The form of catalog entry is that of the regular catalog entry of the Library of Congress with a few modifications. In the right margin of the card the title and author are given in Chinese characters. A unique shelf list has been made by photostatting these Chinese characters and this in book form can be carried to any place for comparison with other collections or for verification in case of purchase. Besides the regular collection there are 150 collections of reprints covering 10,000 works. The library has also a very good collection of Tibetan literature.

The Chinese are the only people who have any adequate historical records. Their literature is a great storehouse of knowledge, much of which is of great practical use to Americans today. It contains the record of a great civilization which is being rapidly swept away as the Chinese adopting the western ideas and

modes of life discard much that is valuable in their own. This record will only be preserved for us in their literature.

A number of slides were shown illustrating the method of housing the collection, the form of catalog entry used, the shelf list and examples of some of the more notable works of the collection.

At the close of the lecture, Mr Slade read a letter from Doctor Putnam, librarian of Congress, expressing his regret at not being able to be present and his appreciation of Mr Swingle's interest and untiring effort in building up the collection of Chinese printed books in the Library of Congress.

ALICE C. ATWOOD,  
Secretary.

**Massachusetts**—The winter meeting of the Massachusetts library club was held at Waltham on Thursday, January 25, 1917. Inasmuch as several were present who were not at the special meeting of the club on January 12, the President reviewed the circumstances connected with the proposal to include library employees within the Civil Service. The importance of the matter was emphasized and the members of the Club were urged to send letters of remonstrance to the Civil Service commission and to sign the petition asking for the exemption of library employees from the operation of the Civil Service.

In a paper on "Library commission work," James I. Wyer, jr., Director of the New York state library, gave an illuminating review of the development and tendencies in commission work. The subject "European war literature" was discussed by Dr Louis N. Wilson, librarian of Clark University library. Dr Wilson spoke first of some of the essential books dealing with the war and then of a number of war drawings and posters which he displayed and commented upon briefly. Dr Wilson had for distribution a printed list of 57 important war books.

At the conclusion of Dr Wilson's remarks, President Loring called upon Miss A. R. Webster, representing the Library committee of the Women's Peace

Party. Miss Webster spoke briefly on "Peace books."

The afternoon session opened with an organ recital. Charles G. Loring, architect of the Waltham public library, later spoke on the topic "An architect's ideals in the library." Mr Loring emphasized (1) utility, (2) cost and (3) beauty as three important things which an architectural firm has in mind in planning a building.

Miss May Massee, as editor, spoke briefly of the work of the *A. L. A. Booklist*. Miss Massee emphasized the co-operative nature of the work declaring that the *Booklist* is made up by members of the A. L. A. The judging and appraising books which is done by individuals in widely scattered communities represents help that is freely given. The *Booklist*, Miss Massee said, expresses the librarians to the publishing world. If desirable books are included, the credit belongs to librarians; if important books are omitted the fault is theirs. A progressive report for the Committee of Five, on Work with children was submitted by Miss Lucy B. Crain.

At a round-table on children's books, conducted by Miss Alice M. Jordan, chief of the children's department of the Boston public library, Miss Frances S. Wiggin spoke on "Books not worth while."

Miss Alice G. Higgins, special assistant in the Somerville public library, spoke of the habit of reading series. She considered this custom one to work away from. Miss Higgins said, in another connection, that it is essential for libraries to see that volumes bought as books of information are actually books of facts. Miss Jordan advised librarians, whenever possible, to secure the help of specialists in book selection.

Miss Elizabeth G. Putnam, of the Salem public library, spoke on "Recent worth-while books of non-fiction."

Miss Gertrude H. Lockwood, of the Brookline public library, spoke on the subject "Mediocre books." Orlando C. Davis, librarian of the Waltham public library, outlined, in an interesting way, the growth of co-operation between the Waltham library and the local booksell-

ers, particularly in regard to the quality of books offered for sale during the Christmas season.

FRANK H. WHITMORE, Recorder.

### Coming Meetings

The Ontario library association will hold its annual meeting in Toronto, April 9 and 10, 1917.

The Mississippi library association will hold its annual meeting at the Industrial institute and college of Columbus, May 3-4, 1917.

The annual meeting of the Nebraska library association will be held at the Library of the State normal school, Kearney, early in October.

### Interesting Things in Print

"Library activities for 1916," in the report of the United States commissioner of education, was prepared by J. D. Woltcott librarian of the Bureau of education.

*Boston University News* for January 30, has a descriptive article on the library of Lockwood Green and Company which is said to have the greatest textile library in the country.

Announcement is made that Mr George Bernard Donlin has assumed the editorship of the *Dial* to succeed Mr Waldo R. Brown. Mr Donlin has been a contributor to various American journals and was, for several years, editorial writer on the Chicago *Record Herald*. He has long been a contributor to the *Dial*.

The Public library of Brockton, Massachusetts, has issued three artistic pamphlets, one, a List of rainy day books for home reading which includes good stories old and new and which in itself is a joy to look at. The second, List of public lectures given in the library and third, a description of the exhibition of paintings by Henry W. Rice, which was held in the library throughout January.

The State historical association of Wisconsin has begun the publication of a monthly checklist of Wisconsin documents. In these days of extensive operation in municipal and legislative collec-

tions, such a checklist from so progressive a state as Wisconsin will undoubtedly prove very useful and valuable. The publications are listed in the following order: 1, Legislature and governor; 2, Boards, bureaus, commissions and departments; 3, Courts; 4, Institutions and societies.

One of the best descriptions of the traveling library movement that has appeared was recently presented on the *Portland Oregonian*. It was evidently written by someone who thoroly understood the subject and has the art of writing interestingly. It savored somewhat of the paper which Miss Askew read at the Minnetonka meeting of the A. L. A.

The 1916-17 edition of the *Indiana Federation of Clubs Year Book* has been received. It contains the proceedings of the last annual meeting, various reports and the official directory of the 456 clubs in the federation. The report on Library extension in Indiana makes a good showing. The *Yearbook* is obtainable from the secretary, Mrs W. S. Johnson, Bloomington, Ind., for 25c.

The material furnished for the program of the meeting of the American Library Institute held at Atlantic City, March 3-4, 1916, has been issued in sizable volume under the direction and immediate supervision of Dr E. C. Richardson, president of the Institute and librarian of Princeton university. The president's admirable address, "The field of library science," the address by J. C. Dana on "Exhibition methods of instruction," the paper presented by A. S. Root, "The library and staff teaching," the discussion on the field of coöperation between the library and learning, by C. W. Andrews, are among the direct contributions which the volume contains.

The new plan of work for the Institute, with seven lines of possible application, is discussed by as many experts in the lines presented. A number of reprinted articles touching the field chosen for "study and discussion," is presented, making a volume extending through 183 pages.

The Proceedings may be had from A. L. A. headquarter's office, price \$2.

**Library Schools****Carnegie library school**

The increased endowment which has been received from the Carnegie Corporation makes it possible to extend the work of the Library school. The continually growing demand for children's librarians, together with the large number of applications for admission to the school makes it advisable to increase the facilities so that it may be possible to admit more students to the course for the training of children's librarians. In addition to this course the school will also offer a one-year course in school library work, beginning with the opening of the Fall term, September 26, 1917.

Mrs Edna Lyman Scott lectured January 30, 31 and February 1 on "State supervision of children's rooms in Iowa," "Poetry" and "The inspirational influence of reading."

"Opportunities of the library in the education of the foreigner" and "The problem of immigration" were the subjects of two lectures given by John Foster Carr, Director of the Immigrant Publication Society, February 6. Both lectures were followed by lantern slides showing work among foreigners. The lecture on the "Problem of immigration" was held in the lecture hall of Carnegie Institute and was open to the public.

Irma Diescher, '16, has been appointed children's librarian of the Hazelwood branch of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Louise Endicott, '12-13, has been made assistant in the Public library of the District of Columbia, Washington, D. C.

Augusta F. Osborn, '15-16, is doing substitute work in the children's department of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Ruth Paxson, '15-16, has resigned from the staff of the children's department of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh to become school librarian in the Public library, Salem, Oregon.

Phebe G. Pomeroy, '12, has been appointed assistant librarian of the

Schenley high school library, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Marion D. Redenbaugh, '11-13, resigned her position as children's librarian of the Hazelwood branch, Carnegie library of Pittsburgh and was married in January to Adam Roscoe, of Pittsburgh.

Ethel M. Sevin, '09, has resigned as branch librarian of the Mt. Washington branch of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh to accept the position of children's librarian in the Brownsville junior branch of the Brooklyn public library.

Maude I. Shaw, '14-15, is filling a substitute position in the children's department of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Carolyn D. Stevens, '14-15, was married in January to W. E. Boak, of Youngstown, Ohio.

Dorothea Thomas, '07-10, has resigned from her position of children's librarian in the New York public library.

Jessie G. Van Cleve, '13-16, has been appointed children's librarian of the Wilmington Institute free library, Wilmington, Del.

Maria de Vrieze, '09-10, has resigned from the Brooklyn public library to become librarian of the Guarantee Trust Company, New York City.

Dorothy Wilson, '14-15, has been appointed children's librarian of the Public library of Topeka, Kansas.

**Drexel school**

Helen D. Subers, Drexel, '03, library organizer, of Ashbourne, Pa., and M. Rebecca Lingenfelter, Drexel, '14, cataloger, of Philadelphia, with the assistance of the student librarians are reorganizing the library of the Lebanon Valley college, Annville, Pa.

Mary P. Farr, Drexel, '95, is reorganizing the Public library, at Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Elizabeth McCord, Drexel, '03, was married to Frank Eugene Martin of Great Falls, at St. Peter's Episcopal church in Helena, Montana, Monday, January 15, 1917. They will reside in

Great Falls where Mr Martin is connected with the Great Falls *Tribune*.

Resolutions passed at the annual meeting of the Drexel Library School alumni association on the death of Miss Florence Benton Custer:

**Resolved—**

That the members of the Drexel Institute Library School alumni association record their profound sorrow at the death of Florence Benton Custer, of the class of 1907, vice-president of the association.

To those with whom she was associated in library work, to those students who listened to her lectures, and to those who were so fortunate as to be her personal friends, her enthusiasm, loyalty and unfailing cheerfulness were a source of inspiration. She will long be held in affection and grateful remembrance.

**Resolved Further—**

That a copy of these resolutions be sent to her family.

EDITH FULTON, Chairman.

M. LOUISE HUNT.

ROSE G. STEWART.

KATHERINE M. TRIMBLE,  
Secretary.

#### Los Angeles public library

The Open courses which proved a successful experiment last year, will be given again this spring, from April 9 to May 14. These consist of short courses which form a part of the regular school work with some special lectures from longer courses. Only those who are engaged in active library work in the vicinity of Los Angeles are eligible for admission.

The following complete courses will be given during this period: Binding and repair of books, W. Elmo Reavis; Survey and analysis of modern fiction (in English) Helen E. Haines; Book buying and order routine, Anne M. Mulheron; Story telling, Mrs Gudrun Thorne-Thomson (under the auspices of the Story tellers' league). Selected lectures will also be given from the courses in Survey of literature, Gertrude Darlow; Reference work, Mrs Brewitt; Library work with children, Jasmine Britton.

Special lectures will include among other subjects, talks on school library work by Los Angeles school librarians; methods in book selection and interesting patrons in books, by Zaidee Brown, librarian of the Long Beach public library;

picture collections, by Eleanor Caruthers, principal of the Art and Music department of the Los Angeles public library; municipal reference work by Grace M. White, principal of the Sociology department of the Los Angeles public library.

**THEODORA R. BREWITT,**  
Principal.

#### Louisville

The training class of the Louisville free public library ended its session January 6. Ten students were enrolled for the course, and the librarian of the Louisville normal school library and an assistant from the Henderson (Ky.) public library took the lectures.

The course covered a period of fifteen weeks and covered the regular line of work of the Louisville public library.

The class is limited to twelve, two of whom may be from out of town who have definite connections with Kentucky libraries. This year five universities and four high schools were represented in the class.

#### The New York public library

The following special lectures have been given to the junior class since the last report:

January 17. Benjamin Adams. Branch library administration.

January 24. Mrs Adelaide B. Maltby. Branch library administration.

January 31. Annie Carroll Moore. Administration of a children's room.

February 7. Annie Carroll Moore. Appeal of work with children.

February 7. Helen Peck Young. Proof reading.

February 14. Anna L. Tyler. Story telling.

February 14. Asa Don Dickinson. Library work abroad.

The seniors are beginning a series of six lectures on Library administration by Franklin T. Hopper.

Mrs Alma D. Custead gave two lectures to the senior class on the Administration of a rural library.

Charles F. McCombs lectured on January 24, on the Formation of a reference collection for a public library.

Both juniors and seniors attended Miss Margaret Jackson's lecture on Book reviews, on January 25.

A dinner in Chinatown and a walk through the push-cart region of the lower

East Side were enjoyed by a large group from the school on the evening of January 17. Five members of the faculty attended and about 30 students.

The juniors entertained the seniors and faculty at the school on the evening of Friday, February 2.

Mr Root attended the annual luncheon of the Pratt Institute school of library science on January 31, and spoke to the alumni on "The effect of the war upon libraries." Mr Root left for two weeks on February 3, to give a series of lectures at the Western Reserve University library school, in Cleveland, Ohio.

AZARIAH S. ROOT,  
Principal.

#### New York state library

School exercises will be suspended during March while the students are absent on practice in libraries outside of Albany. The high school libraries of Warner and Mattituck and the library at Wyoming (N. Y.) will be organized by seniors under the direction of the Educational Extension division. General practice will be given in the libraries of Brooklyn, New York City, Rochester and Utica. Outside the state, students will go to Brookline, Worcester, Springfield and Northampton, to Hartford, Newark (N. J.), Wilmington (Del.), Cleveland, Detroit, the Public Library of the District of Columbia and to Clark University and Princeton University.

The annual library visit will extend from April 3 to 12 inclusive. New York, Philadelphia, Washington and their vicinities will be visited.

Mrs Corinne Roosevelt Robinson spoke to the school, Feb. 8, on the value of a library in a village community. Mrs Robinson described the value, as a social center, of the library at Jordanville, N. Y., of which she is a trustee and active patron. While praising the social work done, Mrs Robinson insisted that the library must always be first a library and that the value of the books be always emphasized. At the close of her talk, Mrs Robinson read by request several of her recent poems among them two unpublished ones: "To Ruth Law" and "Uriel.

Esdras II." Feb. 9 and 10, Mr H. C. Wellman of Springfield (Mass.) spoke on "Library publicity." Mr Wellman used the specific methods employed by his library as a point of departure for the discussion of many of the general principles underlying all successful advertising. He insisted on the importance of adapting means to ends and of analysing returns from publicity to ensure retaining successful methods as well as rejecting unsuccessful ones. The school had the pleasure of meeting Mrs Robinson and Mr Wellman at informal teas after their talks.

Library gifts of children's books, library pictures and bookplates for the school collections have been received the past month from former students and others. Several alumni have also sent their photographs for the school file. This file of portraits is of decided value in several ways and all students who are not yet represented in it are assured that any portraits they may send will be gratefully received.

Mary P. Parsons, B. L. S., N. Y. State, '13, will leave her position as assistant in the Public catalog room of the New York public library on April 1 to become librarian of the Public Library, Morristown, N. J.

Marian McDonald, N. Y. State summer school, '15, who resigned her position as children's librarian at the Westmount, Canada, public library in November to go to England as a Red Cross worker, was married on December 31 to Stuart Forbes, lieutenant of a Canadian regiment.

Mrs Guy H. Furst (Elizabeth Hardman), N. Y. State, '07-08, is acting as librarian of the Public library, Bay City, Mich.

Clara A. Brewer, N. Y. State, '15-16, began a temporary engagement as assistant in the Economics department of Princeton University library on January 19.

F. K. WALTER.

#### Pratt institute\*

The annual luncheon of the Grad-

\*See also p. 119.

uates' association took place on Wednesday, January 31, at the Hotel Martinique in New York. We are indebted to the researches of Mr Hendry, the president, into the hotel possibilities of New York for the most delightful surroundings we have yet enjoyed. There were 86 present at the luncheon, 21 classes being represented, and six honorary members were present as well. The luncheon was preceded by a business meeting at which resolutions upon Miss Plummer's death were adopted. After the luncheon the matter of the memorial tablet to Miss Plummer was presented by Mr Stevens, and the Vice-director summarized the results of the recent questionnaire. The guest of honor was Dr A. S. Root, principal of the New York Library school, whose delightful talk came as a happy ending to the function.

During the month of February, the students have had lectures from Miss Mary Casamajor and Miss Theresa Hitchler of the Brooklyn public library, and from Miss Annie Carroll Moore and Miss Anna C. Tyler of the New York public library.

Miss Ina Rankin, '09, has been appointed first assistant at the Fort Washington branch of the New York public library.

Word has been received of the marriage on January 8, of Ethelwyn Crane, '10, librarian of the Public library at Hoquiam, Washington, to Howard G. Imhoff of North Bend, Oregon.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE,  
Vice-director.

#### **Simmons college**

The second term of the year opened on Monday, February 5. The courses beginning this term, besides Sophomore cataloging and classification, are History of libraries, Work with children, and an elective in High school libraries.

Miss Mary Hall of the Girls' high school in Brooklyn opened the course in High school libraries with a lecture on February 12, and during the term

several high school librarians, some of them Simmons graduates, will present their experiences in handling high school library problems.

In the Book selection course Mr Power, librarian of the College of business administration of Boston university, will talk on the selection of business books on February 16, and Miss A. C. Moore of the New York public library, on children's books, on February 23. Mr Chase, of the Boston public library, will give two talks on the bibliography and the selection of art books.

The collection of children's books is being slowly but steadily increased, and the course in children's work owes a great deal to the material from the Boston public library, with which Miss Jordan illustrates the work.

Caroline Aldrich, Simmons '12, was married to Egbert Bagg, jr., January 17, 1917.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY,  
Director.

#### **University of Washington**

The department of Library economy at the University of Washington, has been raised to the rank of a library school by the official action of the board of regents of the State university. Under the new organization, the library course will cover four years of academic work chosen with special attention to the fifth year which will be given to professional training in library economy. The first four years will lead to a bachelor of arts or science degree, the fifth year's work will be awarded with a degree of bachelor of library economy. The first degree of library economy will not be given before 1918. This is the only professional training school on the Pacific coast where the work is given a scholastic degree.

#### **Western Reserve university**

During January, 12 lectures on "Literature for children" were given by Mrs Edna Lyman Scott, each lecture being followed by the reading and discussion of selected books. At the close of the course, each student was assigned for

two days' experience in a children's room of the Cleveland public library under the supervision of a trained children's librarian; this also included either a house or a school visit for each student.

The Reference course, given by George F. Strong, librarian of the Adelbert College library, was concluded at the end of the first semester. Miss Grant will give the course in Subject bibliography during the second semester.

On Feb. 5, the beginning of the second semester, the course in the "History of the printed book," given by Prof A. S. Root, principal of the New York Public Library library school, and the "Public library and community welfare" given by the Director, were commenced. The "Open Course" during this semester has enrolled, in addition to the regular class, two students, Mr Runyan and Mrs Rorke.

Visits to various library distributing points in Cleveland and vicinity in connection with the library administration course began Wednesday, Feb. 7, with a visit to the Western Reserve Historical Society library and to the East Cleveland public library. The assignment of students for evening experience as assistants in the Cleveland public library has been made, some high school library work being scheduled, this year.

The school has had the following out-of-town lecturers recently: On Feb. 1, John Foster Carr, Director of the Immigration Publication Society, New York City, spoke on "The library and the immigrant," the lecture being illustrated with lantern slides of the work of the various libraries; Dr Frank P. Hill, librarian of the Public library, Brooklyn, N. Y., en route from California, spoke on "A recent glimpse of California libraries," February 5; Miss May Massee, editor of the *A. L. A. Booklist*, gave a talk, February 9, on the *Booklist*, and the same afternoon Mr Jean A. Picard, recently from Paris, spoke on the relations of France and America, and of the books necessary to a better understanding of French life by Americans. A social hour afterward gave the students opportunity to meet the guests.

Lillie C. Lilliequist, '16, has been

elected librarian of the Public library at Aberdeen, Washington, and assumed her new duties in January.

Announcement is made of the marriage of Eliza E. Townsend, '05, to W. C. Ramsay of Pocahontas, Iowa.

ALICE S. TYLER,  
Director.

#### University of Wisconsin

The work of the second semester begins with the two months of field practice, when the academic schedule is suspended, and the students assigned to definite work in the libraries of the state. In almost every case, each student is given two appointments of a month each, that different problems may come under observation and practice. Assignment are always eagerly awaited, and this year was no exception to the rule. It is one of the most difficult problems that the faculty has to meet, and is only accomplished after many meetings and much study: for the field work in order to be part of a curriculum, must be as definitely planned as any course given in residence, else the results will be disastrous. It is really personal instruction and supervision and as such, is the most vital part of the Wisconsin course.

The kind of work to be done, the libraries opening their doors for this practice, and the student assignments follow; in every case, however, other experience than the one specifically named is gained during the time, as no student is kept at one type of work steadily, as this would defeat the very end and aim of the field experience.

Grace M. Stevens, '10, has been elected librarian of the Butte (Mont.) high school library, resigning her position as librarian of the Seven Corners Branch of the Minneapolis public library.

Dorothy Kautz, '11, is secretary to the president of the Highland Park college, Des Moines, Iowa.

Florence H. Davis, '12, is organizing the business library of the Kentucky Tobacco Products Company in Louisville.

Dorothea C. Heins, '12, for three years in charge of stations in the Superior (Wis.) public library, has accepted a position in the Evansville (Ind.) public library.

Hazel E. Askey, '13, has been appointed to the cataloging department of the California state library, beginning work on January 16.

Gladys Turner, '13, was married in January to Thomas A. MacClenthen of Detroit. Since her graduation, Miss Turner has been children's librarian of the Bowen branch.

May C. Lewis, '14, has resigned as assistant in the Madison (Wis.) free library, to accept the position of cataloger in the Carnegie library of Tampa, Florida.

Julia C. Stockett, '14, was on the program conducted by the University of Idaho for Farmers' and Housekeepers' Week, speaking on the Public, Home and School library.

Eleanor H. Campbell, '15, has been promoted to the librarianship of the Dixie B. Duffield branch, Detroit public library.

Jennie E. Doran, '15, is resigning as cataloger at the Calgary (Alberta) public library, to become chief of the order department in the Denver public library.

Hazel F. Long, '16, who entered the Training class for children's librarians at Cleveland, has been appointed librarian of the South branch of the Whiting (Ind.) public library.

#### Positions, Salaries and Conditions \*

The fact that a questionnaire concerning positions, salaries, and working conditions had been sent out to its graduates by the school was mentioned two months ago. This was sent to the 320 graduates still in the field, from whom 281 responses have been received, though only 275 arrived in time to be included in the tabulated statistics. Of the graduates now holding regular positions there are 87 librarians, 8 assistant librarians, 36 supervisors or heads of departments, 16 branch librarians, 36 catalogers, 12 children's librarians, and 10 reference librarians in charge of separate rooms (excluding both heads of large departments and assistants), 36 assistants, 19 in other kinds of library positions, and 4 in museums or other non-library positions. Grouping by kinds of library we find 162 in public libraries, 46 in educational libraries (of which 20 are in high schools), 28 in special libraries, 15 in state and federal libraries, and 12 in other sorts of libraries.

The average weekly schedule of hours has dropped from 40½ three years ago to 39.54. Fifty-two are working 40 hours against 39 three years ago,

while in 1914, 67 persons worked 42 hours and this year only 60. Today only 23 of our graduates are working over 42 hours, while in 1914, 38 were working over that number of hours. This shows a hopeful trend toward better conditions.

Salaries, too, show an upward trend though by no means commensurate with the H. C. of L. The average of 262 salaries (those working by the hour or doing piece work not counted) is \$1,164, while the average of 261 salaries in 1914 was \$1,081. The medium or 131st salary is \$1,080 now, as against \$1,000 in 1914. There are fewer salaries below \$900 than in 1914,—58 vs. 74,—while there are 12 of \$2,000 as over against 6 three years ago. There are more salaries of \$1,200 than any other single figure; there are 32 of them, the next being 26 each of \$900 and \$1,500. This is encouraging if not exhilarating.

Vacations remain about as they were in 1914, an average of 37 working days or about 6 weeks, counting Sundays. The inclusion of school library vacations brings up the average, but the great preponderance in numbers is of one calendar month, 146 out of the whole number. These having only two weeks, 20 in number, correspond closely to the number (28) in special or business libraries.

For the first time information was asked about membership in library organizations. Two hundred and thirty-eight belonged to at least one, 158 to two, 62 to three, and 16 to four or over. Of these, 180 belong to the A. L. A., 142 to state associations, 95 to local clubs, and 45 to the Special Libraries association or other professional organization, membership in our own Graduates' association not being counted. Only 26 belong to no library organization, and it is an interesting fact,—whether it be cause or effect,—that the salary of the 26 averages only \$915 while the average Pratt salary is \$1,164, and the average of those belonging to organizations is \$1,191. Only five of the 26 belong to the latest class—1916.

\*Printed separately from report of Pratt Institute school because of general interest.

## Department of School Libraries

### The Reading of High School Students and How to Improve it\*

Sara C. Evans, librarian, West Chester (Penn.) high school

We all know that the reading of high school students has a three fold purpose —first, to enlarge the daily vocabulary; second, to secure additional information both for its own sake and for its cultural value; and third, to cultivate a sense of real enjoyment in becoming acquainted with the thoughts of others by means of the printed page. The first two of these are very well taken care of by the requirements made by the teachers for class preparation. To accomplish the last purpose is one of the school librarian's great problems, and it is a problem that as yet has failed of proper solution.

The child from the lower grades reads with pleasure what books are suggested to him, simply because the teacher or the librarian has made the suggestion. But this unquestioning faith is not manifested by the high school student. It may be because children of this age are beginning to want to think for themselves; because they resent what seems to them too careful supervision; or because they prefer to learn from personal experience. Be that as it may, we realize that in proportion to the thought and care expended in compiling lists of books for high school students, there is too little real use made of these suggestions. Yet our boys and girls do read, and read much—just as much as did those of former generations.

The moving pictures bring to them the combination of scenery and action that formerly could be found only in books. There is left for their imagination merely the conversation that would naturally accompany the action. The moving pictures have come to stay, so why should we bemoan the fact that this generation declares that Dickens and his contempor-

raries are tiresome "because it takes them so long to get anywhere." These children can see the actual stage-coach rolling along a real English road carrying little David away to school. They can sympathize with him very keenly, for they see the many trials that befall him. Why, they even have personal knowledge of the greedy waiter's perfidy! The whole story becomes as real to them as it did to us who poured over the actual book. Yet we cannot but regret that they are losing the joy of creating these figures in their own imagination. They will miss the pleasure of discovering a Pecksniff, a Mark Tapley, or a Mrs Jellaby among their casual acquaintances.

To go back to the subject of moving pictures:—the bad English of many of the descriptions and the slang and vulgarity in some of the conversations thrown on the screen, are greatly to be deplored. But the fact remains that a large part of our high school students is doing that sort of reading. Because of this, the librarian must do a large part in creating a demand for the highest grade of screen pictures. She must work actively to create a strong sentiment amongst teachers and parents against vulgar and low grade plays. She can arouse an interest in well-worthwhile pictures by recommending *them*—not by condemning the bad ones. The picture houses want the crowds and they will cater to the taste of their audiences.

Because of the popularity of the "movies" the children demand books "where they're doin' somethin' or sayin' somethin' all the time." The wording of this demand shows that something should be done.

In these days when both father and mother are leading strenuous lives full of outside demands, the daily newspaper forms a large part of the reading material in many homes. We are forced to believe that the editorial page is the one that is passed over without a glance as to its contents. The hastily constructed

\*Read before the Keystone library association, Wernersville, Penn., October 12-14, 1916.

sentences with no regard as to their correctness so far as the English is concerned; the sensational prominence given to crime and social sins on the news pages, make this kind of reading positively pernicious. In spite of the fact that slang has been called really *live* English, we cannot but regret that any child's reading outside of school texts should be composed largely of such questionable English. Let us hope that the high cost and scarcity of paper may necessitate the cutting out of many of the sensational items which go to make up the bulk of our news to-day.

The circulation statistics of magazines show that we are a nation of magazine readers; but the largest circulations, as we all know, are maintained by the purely entertaining ones. Our high school students read these and await eagerly the next issue of some favorite magazine in order that they may follow the marvelous adventures of their favorite hero. We cannot ignore the fact that much of the popular magazine fiction gives distorted ideas of life and its problems. The lack of respect for all authority, the frank discussion of strained marital relations, the total ignoring of the sanctity of home life as depicted in many of these stories offer poor mental food for any one, and that which is positively dangerous for youth.

The cheap editions of novels give to booklovers the opportunity to own and enjoy really good books—books that make for character. But there are all sorts of novels published in these editions, and many have the added fascination of having been "best sellers" in their first edition. Even this source of reading needs to be watched carefully by the high school librarian.

It is human nature to want to do what everyone else is doing; so our high school students are eager to read the new novels as they come out. It is noticeable, though, that they do not care very much for those books that discuss social problems apart from the action of the plot. They want books that end happily even if that happiness

may have been gained in a questionable way.

Now because of these conditions it is in the province of the high school librarian, rather than in that of the regular librarian to offer suggestions for their improvement.

The very first suggestion that I want to make, is that we start farther back than with the girls and boys of the high school. If the librarian sends out to the grades, from the sixth up, groups of interesting books, the children begin to feel that the school library is really theirs, and they become eager to use it. If it is possible to have the individual child return the books after he has read them, it will cultivate a familiarity with the workings of the library and a friendship with the librarian which will be a great help when these same children become the homesick freshmen of the high school. There will always be one place where they know what to do. Then the children of the eighth grade may be invited to the library once a week just to read what they desire. Some of them will know what they want, and these can be quickly directed to the proper shelves. Then the librarian can suggest to the others, in a general way, several books and magazines that may prove interesting. Even if some of them spend the first two or three hours in looking at pictures, that time is not wasted. They are unconsciously forming the much talked-of "library habit." It is most interesting to watch the development along this line.

Furthermore, we should begin with the teachers. We need their hearty cooperation for the advancement of our work just as much as they need our help. If the teachers are not able to show a familiarity with the books in the school library, if they choose their lists of suggested reading without thought for the particular needs of their pupils, then the reading of those pupils will be far from effective; it will be done because it is required and not because it is a real pleasure. A teacher's casual reference to a character or to a

description in a certain book which has some bearing upon the particular topic under discussion in the classroom, will do much toward making that book a popular one with the members of that class.

Have the teachers of English work with the librarian in preparing lists of suggested reading for each class in the high school. Revise these lists each year to suit the personnel of the new classes, so that the students will not feel that the work is cut and dried. At all times these lists should be sufficiently varied in subject matter and grade to meet the tastes of almost everyone. But if you find anyone who is looking with longing eyes at the "grazing beyond the fence," then try to satisfy that longing by directing attention to something not on the prescribed list, which answers the requirement of being written in good English. The school librarians have the great advantage of not being compelled to satisfy the demands of the general public, and therefore there need not be any book on the fiction shelves that would be questionable from the moral standpoint. Yet the school librarian must be willing to consider the opinions of the parents; for they have opinions concerning the books that their children are given at school. One mother sent word that she could not understand what the librarian was thinking of—to give her innocent little girl, a member of the junior class, "The rise of Silas Lapham" to read in connection with her study of American history.

In preparing these lists of suggested reading, our eagerness to set a high standard must not cause us to lose sight of the fact that we are dealing with children. They want something that appeals to the imagination as did the fairy tale in earlier years—something in which the hero or the heroine triumphs over many difficulties. Human nature has not changed, and we have the same sort of girls as those that wept over Elsie's sore trials while they thrilled with the descriptions of southern hospitality; the same sort of boys as those

that followed Dick Carter and like heroes through many vicissitudes to final well-deserved success. The characters that do impossible things in automobiles, motor-boats, aeroplanes, etc., appeal to this imagination; and we must be very subtle in leading them from a low grade of books which must produce mental indigestion, to a higher standard in which the characters really live.

The librarian must secure the co-operation of *all* the teachers, not merely of those in the English department. Their interest can be aroused by making short lists, from time to time, of new material in the library that has special reference to the topics being discussed in the individual departments. In making up these lists, be not a despiser of small things—postcards, newspaper clippings, magazine illustrations, advertising folders are frequently very important items. In this way the non-fiction articles in the magazines can be brought to the attention of the students.

The magazines, of which there should be as large and varied a list as possible, can be used to great advantage by the librarian in winning those that pride themselves upon reading nothing but newspapers. A boy who finds the sporting page especially interesting, will be quite willing to read an article on baseball or on football written by someone whose name means much in that particular sport. He will read this article if his attention is called to it; but he will never find it for himself. His discovery that these men whom he admires, write for—the St. Nicholas for instance—gives him a much higher opinion of that magazine.

Pictures are attractive to everyone, and finely illustrated editions of classics may be just the bait needed to catch certain wary ones that have read only what is actually required and have done that reading with some grumbling. Then, too, familiarity with those fine editions creates a desire to own books of that sort, and thus the appreciation of the beautiful is cultivated.

The *story hour* in the libraries has done much to attract the little ones to the children's rooms. Where it is at all possible to have a *reading hour* for a high school group, there will be gratifying results. Someone who really loves poetry and who has a pleasant reading voice can then read aloud good poetry—that which has fire and action as well as that which appeals to the emotions and to the love of the beautiful. It is because the rhythm is so frequently lost by mere eye reading, that our girls and boys do not care for poetry. This reading hour in the library will produce much better results than the reading of the same literature in the classroom. The surroundings seem to make it so much more effective. Here again the librarian must depend upon the assistance of the teachers to make this a worthwhile part of the library work. There should be an expression of some sort—of pleasure or the reverse—from each one of the group so entertained; and the attitude of the teachers of English will have much weight in deciding what these expressions shall be.

### An Appeal

To librarians and library trustees of Illinois:

The Illinois library association has introduced into the state legislature two bills that deserve the earnest support not only of all members of the association but also of voters in any degree interested in library matters. Your coöperation is urged in reaching all members of each house to impress upon them that informed public opinion is behind these measures. Written communications from librarians and board members to the senators and representatives from their districts urging their support of these bills will be the most effective means of securing their passage. Similar letters should be addressed to the chairmen of committees to which these bills have been referred.

1. "A bill for an act to enable counties to provide free public libraries."

Introduced in the senate by Senator

Pervier as Bill number 185 and referred to the Committee on Judiciary, of which the Senator Richard J. Barr is chairman.

Introduced in the House by Representative Frederick A. Brewer as Bill number 345 and referred to the Committee on Education, of which Representative Norman G. Flagg is chairman.

This bill will make it possible for counties to establish libraries that will serve the needs of their entire population. It is anticipated that such a law will benefit most those counties having few or no libraries. It is a practical educational measure that should do much to develop library facilities for the rural population and bring Illinois up to the grade of other states in this respect.

2. "A bill to amend the act to incorporate cities and villages."

Introduced in the senate by Senator Dunlap as Bill number 178 and referred to the Committee on Municipalities, of which Senator James J. Barbour is chairman.

Introduced in the house by Representative Stanfield as Bill number 410 and referred to the Committee on Municipalities, of which Hon Gotthard A. Dahlberg is chairman.

The object of this bill is to restore to library boards in commission-governed cities and villages the powers delegated to them under the library law. In several cities which have adopted the commission form of government the functions of the library board have been assumed by the commission and the library placed under the control of one commissioner. There is urgent need of relief from this most unsatisfactory condition. Apparently there is no recourse unless this bill becomes law. Urge this insistently upon your representatives. Do not delay till a more convenient time. *Do it now.*

CHARLES J. BARR,  
President.

The text of the bills follow:

### Senate Bill No. 185

An Act to enable counties to provide free public libraries.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly: That on a petition signed by not less than 100 legal voters of a county,

the county board of such county may establish and maintain at the county seat or in some other city or village in the county, a public library and reading room for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of such county, or may contract with some existing library or libraries in such county for the use of the county and its inhabitants of the books and periodicals, the building, reading room and other facilities of such library or libraries.

Sec. 2. Every such library shall be free for the use of the inhabitants of the county where the same is located, subject to such reasonable rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the library board hereinafter provided for, or the management of the library or libraries with which said county board may contract.

Sec. 3. In all cases where a county board shall establish a library under the provisions of section 1 hereof, a library board of five (5) members shall be appointed by the county board, which library board shall serve without compensation. The terms of office of the members of the first board shall be one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4) and five (5) years respectively, and thereafter each new member shall be appointed for a term of five (5) years. Vacancies occasioned by death, removal, resignation or otherwise, shall be filled for the unexpired term in like manner as original appointments.

Sec. 4. The members of said board shall immediately after their appointment meet and organize by electing one of their number as president and one as secretary. Such board shall make and establish from time to time such by-laws, rules and regulations for its guidance and for the government of the reading room, library and branches which may be established as they may deem expedient not inconsistent with this act.

The fiscal year of such board shall close at the same time at which the fiscal year of the county is closed. An annual report to the Illinois Library Extension commission shall be made by such board on or before the first day of February of each year.

Sec. 5. Such board shall have power to receive and administer gifts, and donations of real and personal property for library purposes, to establish and maintain as many branches or library stations within the different townships or divisions of the county as may be deemed requisite or advisable, to provide for the circulation of books, periodicals, pictures, etc., throughout the county and shall exercise all powers and do all acts necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Sec. 6. Said board shall appoint a librarian and fix his compensation. Such librarian shall hold a certificate of qualification issued by the Illinois Library Extension commission.

Sec. 7. A tax of not to exceed two (2) mills on the dollar on the assessed value of all taxable property within such county as may have established a library or libraries, or as may have entered into a contract with existing library or libraries provided herein, shall be assessed, levied and collected by such county in the manner provided for the assessment, levying and collection of other taxes for county purposes, the proceeds of which tax shall be placed in a separate fund to be known as the "Library Fund," which fund shall be expended only for library purposes.

Sec. 8. No moneys shall be drawn from such library fund except upon warrants drawn by the president and secretary of such library board in case where a library is established, or by the main executive officer of the library or libraries, and the president of the county board in cases where only a contract is made with an existing library or libraries.

Sec. 9. Whenever it shall be deemed expedient by such board to erect a building or purchase a site or to accumulate a fund for either or both of these purposes, such board may proceed in the manner provided for the carrying out of similar purposes in an Act entitled, "An Act to authorize cities, incorporated towns and townships to establish and maintain free public libraries and reading rooms," approved and in force March 7, 1872, as subsequently amended.

#### Senate Bill No. 178

An Act to amend an Act entitled, "An Act to provide for the incorporation of cities and villages," approved April 10, 1872, in force July 1, 1872, as subsequently amended, by adding to article 13 of said Act, a new section to be known and designated as section 24a.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly: That an Act entitled, "An Act to provide for the incorporation of cities and villages," approved April 10, 1872, in force July 1, 1872, as subsequently amended, be and the same is hereby amended by adding to article thirteen (XIII) of said Act a new section to be known and designated as section twenty-four-a (24a), which said section is to read as follows:

Sec. 24a. In any city, town or village which has adopted, or may hereafter adopt, the form of government prescribed in this article, any public library or libraries for such city, town or village, shall be established, maintained and conducted in all respects in accordance with the provisions of an Act entitled, "An Act to authorize cities, incorporated towns and townships to establish and maintain free public libraries and reading rooms," approved and in force March 7, 1872, as the same has been or may be subsequently amended.

**News from the Field****East**

Drew B. Hall has resigned as librarian of the Public library, Somerville, Massachusetts.

Jessamine M. Smith, N. Y. State, '10-11, has gone to the Ferguson Library, Stamford, Conn., as general assistant.

A gift of \$60,000 for a public library building was made to the town of Wakefield, Mass., by Mr Junius Beebe. It is to be a memorial to his father.

Foster Waterman Stearns, since 1913, librarian of the Boston museum of fine arts, has been chosen by the board of trustees to be librarian of the Massachusetts state library.

Anna E. Foster, Mt. Holyoke, '16, and Simmons, '14, has taken a substitute position in the Mount Holyoke College library, South Hadley, Massachusetts. She has been an assistant in Swarthmore college library for two years.

Mrs George Putman has made a gift of \$20,000 to Harvard university. The money will be used to establish a fund in the name of Mrs Putman's brother, James Jackson Lowell, and the interest will be used for the purchase of books.

William F. Kenney, for many years a member of the trustees of the Boston public library, has been elected president to succeed the late Col J. H. Benton. Mr Kenney is on the editorial staff of the Boston *Globe*.

The Mount Holyoke college library has received as a bequest from Miss Jane M. Lamb. It consists of 1,000 volumes from the library of her late father, a large number of which are substantial works in political science and American history.

Theodore F. Dwight, formerly librarian of Boston public library, died at his home in Boston, February 3. Mr Dwight was librarian of Boston public library from 1892-94. He was librarian of the state department for 12 years and at one time in his career he also served as librarian and secretary to George Bancroft, the historian.

Grace H. Knapp, Mt. Holyoke, '93, is

assisting in the Mount Holyoke college library in the absence of one of the staff. Miss Knapp taught for many years in Bitlis, Harpoot, and Van, Turkey. She gained some library experience in Colorado college a number of years ago and last year was in the training class in the Westfield (Mass.) Athenaeum.

The late Col J. H. Benton, for many years president of the Board of trustees of the Boston public library, has left his entire fortune of \$2,000,000 with accumulations to that institution. \$100,000 is to be immediately given to the public library to be put to the children's fund, the income of which is for the purchase of books for children. The widow of Col Benton is to receive \$20,000 from the accumulated income of one-half of the residue and the balance is to be expended for books, maps and other material, especially books desirable for scholarly research and use. The remaining one-half of the residue is to accumulate until it reaches the sum of \$2,000,000 when the fund will be used to enlarge the present central library building in Copley square or in the construction of a new building.

**Central Atlantic**

Sarah B. Ball, Pratt, '02, for some years librarian of the Business branch of the Newark public library, has been made librarian of the United States Rubber Company of New York.

An exhibition of etchings and other works by Max Klinger is on view in the Stuart art gallery of the New York public library. It will remain open until the end of March.

The annual report of the Public library of Newcastle, Pennsylvania, records the receipts for the year, \$5,109; expenditure, \$4,934; accessions, 1014, volumes in the library, 9746; number of borrowers, 7818.

The Public library of Utica, New York, recently held a very successful loan exhibition of oriental rugs. There were 101 pieces displayed of various sizes and there was no duplication of color or pattern. The exhibition was made up by loans from various residents

of Utica. The library also displayed at the same time a recent gift of curios.

The annual report of the Carnegie library of Braddock, Pennsylvania, records the circulation of 360,666 v. In the reading room, 52,428 books and 32,789 periodicals were consulted. The children's room was affected by quarantine for a considerable time but the circulation was 52,215 v. The amount spent for books was \$4,000 and \$800 for periodicals. Classes from the high school were instructed in the arrangements and use of the library.

The annual report of the Free library of Germantown, Pennsylvania, records an increase in the number of books used but a decrease in the number of visitors. This last is laid to the industrial prosperity of the town as in hard times the working man uses the library as a reading room. There has been an increase in the use of books on travel and fine arts. The number of books in the library is 3,392, number circulated, 13,928.

The annual report of the City librarian of Kingston, New York, records an anonymous gift of \$1000 for the purchase of technical books, which latter have been very largely used. The infantile paralysis in the summer affected the circulation which was 51,098v for the year, of which 62 per cent was fiction. Instruction in the use of the library was given to the freshman class in the high school with the result of a more intelligent use of the catalog and indexes.

The annual report of the Public library, Englewood, New Jersey, records number of volumes on the shelves, 16,074v., circulation 48,287. Something over one-third of these were taken from the children's room. Borrowers cards now number 3,111. A number of meetings have been held in the library during the year. Exhibits from the Latin departments of the high school and from the Manual training class of both grade and high schools, were laid out in the library. The exhibit from the Manual training class consisted of a collection of bird

boxes for which a prize was given by the Englewood bird club.

Herman Rosenthal, chief of the Slavonic division of the New York public library, died suddenly at his home in New York, on January 27. Mr Rosenthal was born in Russia and came to the United States in 1881 for the purpose of establishing agricultural colonies for Russian Jews. His effort was not altogether successful though one colony in Woodbine, New Jersey, is still in existence. Mr Rosenthal was interested in publishing and journalism before taking part in library work and also in economic conditions particularly on the side of emigration. He was appointed chief of the Slavonic division of the New York public library in 1898. He was a member of the editorial board of the Jewish encyclopedia and contributed to various periodicals. He also published several volumes of poetry, original work, as well as translation of scholarly treatises from German and Russian.

Woislav M. Petrovitch has been appointed chief of the Slavonic division of the New York public library, and assumed his duties on February 13. Mr Petrovitch received his education in Serbia, his native country, at the University of Belgrade. He also holds a Bachelor's degree from George Washington university, Washington, D. C. He was for two years assistant librarian in the Bureau of statistics in the Department of commerce and labor, and has been an assistant in the copyright office of the Library of Congress. From 1906 to 1909 he was vice-consul of the United States at Belgrade and from 1913 to 1916 was an attaché of the Serbian legation in London. Recently he has been lecturing on the French language and literature at New York University. He has written French, English, German, Russian, and Italian grammars for the use of Serbians, as well as Serbian grammars for the use of persons speaking English, German, and French. He is the author of "Hero tales and legends of the Serbians," "Serbia: Her people, history, and aspirations," an adaptation of a Serbian drama called

"The Empress of the Balkans," and "The literary history of the Southern Slavs," a work soon to be published in England, and probably in America.

#### Central

The St Louis public library has prepared a very attractive invitation to visit its main library building and to make free use of its books, to be sent to prominent visitors to St Louis.

Christine S. Trepp, Pratt, '99, for some years on The Johns Hopkins library staff, has been made cataloger at the John Crerar library, Chicago, Illinois.

The circulation of the Cleveland public library for 1916 was 3,224,908 v., a gain of 71,125. There was a loss of 84,907 in adult circulation and an increase of 156,032 in the juvenile. Number of visitors recorded was 2,059,853.

The first branch of the Chicago public library to be erected from a regular library fund, was dedicated on Lincoln's birthday with appropriate exercises. It will be called Woodlawn branch and is located at the corners of Sixty-third Street and Kimbark avenue.

The Public library of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has been made residuary legatee of \$100,000 by the will of F. N. Finney, who lived in Pasadena, California, at the time of his death, but who was a resident of Milwaukee when the will was made.

Josephine O'Flynn, librarian of the Detroit Bar association, died February 15, at her home in that city.

Miss O'Flynn was connected with the Detroit public library for many years. She was graduated from the Drexel institute library school and for sometime had charge of the apprentice class in the Detroit public library.

Charles R. Rush, librarian, Public library, Des Moines, Iowa, has been appointed chairman of the Library section of the International Rotary club. The annual conference of this organization will be held at Atlantic City, June 17-21.

Henry M. Utley, for 27 years librarian of the Public library of Detroit, and

for four years librarian emeritus of the same institution, died in that city, February 16, after a long illness caused by a nervous breakdown, two years ago. Mr Utley was past 80 years of age.

The report of the Public library at Grand Rapids has an interesting phase of statistics in what is termed "total of all records of service" which reaches the sum of 1,042,646. This includes books issued for home use, books used in the reference room, readers in the reference room, visitors to exhibitions, attendance at lectures, attendance at story hours, etc. The number of card holders is 27,621, number of books in the library 168,962.

In 1912, the St Louis public library commenced a series of what is termed "visitors' nights" which are still continued and the interest manifested in this innovation shows no sign of abating. The twenty-second visitors' night was held on February 16 in the children's room and the special feature was a demonstration of story telling which was attended by about 200 persons. Stories were told by four ladies representing the Board of education, the Municipal playgrounds and two of the branch libraries.

The Public library of Youngstown, Ohio, is contemplating a central information service connected by telephone with the steel works in the city, the same to be in charge of an expert librarian who will give his entire time to the needs of the steel industries. The steel companies are to make contributions in money and material and will appoint two practical experts to coöperate with the library authorities and advise them in the selection of the books and the rules for borrowers.

The books in the Birchard library of Fremont, Ohio, are being inspected in regard to their binding. Mary E. Ensign of the book-binding department, Public library, Cleveland, Ohio, has the matter in hand and with the assistance of the staff is rebinding, mending and discarding the volumes under attention. The assistants are working with Miss Ensign and when the work is complete it is expected that it will add greatly to the appearance

and to the satisfaction in the use of the library.

The annual report of the Carnegie-Stout library of Dubuque, Iowa, records that the year 1916 had the largest circulation since 1908, namely, 107,781 v. The biggest factor in increasing the circulation was a publicity campaign carried on throughout 1916. There were exhibitions, moving picture slides and the library booth held in the State exposition in Dubuque where attractive book lists and handbills were exhibited and some of the staff were present to explain the workings of the library.

In the re-organization of the Birchard public library, Fremont, Ohio, a number of valuable old manuscripts are being unearthed. The library will put these in a presentable shape and will file them away carefully for consultation by those who may be interested. Some of these papers are early plats of towns, some of them extending back to the early years of the eighteen hundreds. Names of old pioneers and business men appear on documents which make important connecting links and historical data of the period which they represent.

The report of the Public library at Minneapolis shows that 1,507,085 books were lent to 26 per cent of the city's population, exclusive of the 10,000 school children who borrowed books from the library in 1916. The most important feature of the work according to the report, was the personal assistance of children and foreigners, the recreational features, debaters' work, the establishment of friendly relations between the library and the public, and kindred things which are not to be expressed in figures.

County circulation, by parcel post, was carried on to the extent of 15,209 v.; 29,318 v. were added to the library making a total of 319,233 v. on the shelves now. The library spent \$5,075 for periodicals and \$24,605 for books.

The report of the Director of the University of Chicago library, records the total circulation as 138,853 v. from the general library. Students cards issued numbered 5,002. No statistics are avail-

able to give results in the 12 departmental libraries located outside of the Harper memorial building.

Many valuable gifts were received during the year, the most noted of which are as follows: From Dr F. W. Gunsaulus, a number of early manuscripts and 30 unusually fine specimens of early printing; Mrs Emma B. Hodge, books and letters of the Reformation period: Mrs Henderson, the private library, numbering 5,000v, of her late husband, Prof C. R. Henderson; Mrs G. M. Eckels, 538v. relating to the period of Cromwell and the Puritan revolution, from the library of her late husband. The library of Prof R. F. Harper, dealing exclusively with Semitic philology, was presented by his heirs. Mr D. Hutcheson who previously presented the university with a collection on Spinoza, contributed a number of books dealing with modern Greek history and philology.

#### South

Gladys M. Dixon, Pratt, '12, formerly first assistant of the Mt. Washington branch of the Carnegie library at Pittsburgh, has resigned to take the assistant librarianship of the Public library at El Paso, Texas.

The annual report of the Carnegie library of Charlotte, North Carolina, records an increase of 20 per cent in the circulation the largest part of which was in the children's department. The circulation reached 54,068v., at the cost of eight cents per volume. Per capita circulation for the year was two. A number of important gifts of books was received during the year.

In the report of the Carnegie library at Atlanta, Georgia, for 1916, the completion of the South branch is mentioned as the main fact. This branch opens library facilities to an entirely new part of the city and during the year, 64,732v were circulated. The library has 41 depository centers, including the main library, 4 branches and 24 schools. The total circulation was 437,370v. There were 382 special lists prepared. The average number of books read per capita was 3.5. There were 54 organizations

that held 485 meetings in the library during the year.

The beautiful new library building for the Lawson McGhee library at Knoxville, Tennessee, was opened to the public on January 10. The exterior is of terra cotta, the foundations and interior decorations of Tennessee marble, the wood work of fumed oak, and the walls and ceiling are finished in harmonious shades of brown and green. The building was erected with the thought of having a thoroly modern library building with adequate convenience and economy of administration equal to the demands of the increasing use of the library by the community.

The Lawson McGhee library was established in 1885 by Colonel McGhee in memory of his daughter, May Lawson McGhee Williams. It was long a subscription library, then the trustees felt that the needs of the growing city would be met more fully by a free public library. The trustees therefore, effected an arrangement with the city by which they were to erect and give to the city of Knoxville, a library building on condition that it should be known always as the Lawson McGhee library and that it should be adequately supported by taxation.

A singular coincidence in the dedication of the new library building, was that it was the centennial of the inauguration of the library movement in Knoxville in 1817. With varying degrees of success, reading facilities were furnished to the citizens of Knoxville, until in 1883 it received the Lawson McGhee bequest as before mentioned, as a memorial. Colonel McGhee not only furnished the site and building for the library but he provided the books and the means with which to support the library itself. The present library contains over 20,000 v. many of them being rare old books.

The bronze memorial tablet on the interior of the building contains a fitting inscription to the generosity of Colonel McGhee.

The annual report of the Rosenberg

library at Galveston, Texas, records the number of books loaned for home use, 80,000; books added 3,000, making 59,000 on the shelves. Reserve shelves were set apart for the use of the different organizations of the city. Various exhibits arranged during the year attracted much attention. Income of the library, \$29,159; disbursements, \$29,016; magazines and periodicals, \$710; salaries, \$14,189; miscellaneous expenses, \$6,572. More than 19,000 persons attended the 31 lectures given by the library. The circulation of books from the children's department formed 43 per cent of the library's loan for last year. There are 18,385 borrowers cards in force.

Arrangements have been made by the Louisville public library to extend library privileges to Jefferson County. The Fiscal Court appropriated \$5,000 a year for this purpose and accepted the following proposition made by the Library Board:

- 1) To place at the disposal of the tax-payers and residents of the county the entire resources of the Louisville free public library, including the use of the circulation, children's and reference departments and reading rooms of the main library and branches under the same rules as govern the tax-payers and residents of the city.
- 2) To establish stations in the towns and villages in the county to be conducted by the stations department as stations are conducted in the city.
- 3) To place classroom collections in the schools in the county to be conducted by the children's department as class-room collections are conducted in the city.

#### West

The city of Redcloud, Nebraska, has received a gift of \$20,000 for a public library from a former citizen.

The report of the Public library of Ogden, Utah, records 80,000 v. loaned to 10,000 borrowers. Small collections of books in French, German, Swedish and Danish have been largely circulated with the supply inadequate to the demand. An exhibition of suitable books for Christmas gifts was held in December. Small room libraries have been sent to the various grades in the

public schools. The children in the eighth grade have been instructed in intelligent use of the library.

The annual report of the Public library of Salt Lake City records a year of excellent work and showing notwithstanding the inconvenience incident upon additions to the buildings which were under construction. A new children's department has been arranged, fitted with L. B. steel stacks and furniture and which doubles the capacity of the first floor. Space has been found for a rest and locker room for the staff which adds greatly to their comfort.

Circulation reached 328,927v. A new music department started last year has been highly successful. Inter-library loans were carried on with 26 different towns in the state. Over 470 meetings were held by various organizations in the library. Story hours were held weekly throughout the year.

#### Pacific coast

Dorothea L. Smith has been appointed librarian of the Public library of Woodland, California.

Mary E. Ransom who attended the 1916 winter session of the Riverside Library Service school is now in charge of the Hermosa Beach library, a branch of the Los Angeles County free library.

The Lincoln memorial association of Oregon, through its president Judge Wallace McCamant, has given to 32 public libraries of Oregon, in commemoration of Lincoln's birthday, sets of Nicolay & Hay's Life of Lincoln, having provided a set for each library which did not have it and could not buy it.

Miss Anne D. Swezey, librarian at Salem, Oregon, was married, February 12, to Robert H. Armstrong of Seattle, Washington. Mr and Mrs Armstrong will make their home at 702 Boren Avenue in Seattle.

Alice Coldren has been appointed librarian of the Union high school, Yreka, California. Miss Coldren graduated from the Normal school, Ypsilante and also took the course offered by the Riverside public library.

At a luncheon held at the Glenwood Mission Inn in Riverside, California, on January 22, an organization of the students of the Riverside library school was effected. Its purpose is to establish a directory through which the changes and movements of the school may be noted.

The new public library building for San Francisco was dedicated and formally opened on February 16. A large throng of visitors went through examining the beautiful rooms, marble corridors and various arrangements made for public library service in this new building. Mr Joseph O'Connor, president of the board of library trustees, presided at the exercises. Mayor Rolph gave an address on behalf of the city. Various other prominent speakers addressed the assembly. The architect, George W. Kellam, expressed his opinion that they had succeeded in making a building which was efficient.

The annual report of the library of the University of California records additions for the year 28,218v, making a total of 332,884v. in the library. The effect of the war has been felt in the field of foreign gifts and exchanges. Special attention has been given during the year to map collection. A long planned attack upon the great accumulation of duplicates was made. The work of reclassification and cataloging has progressed somewhat hampered by lack of funds and adequate helpers. About 3,500 cards were added to the dictionary catalog and 57,000 new cards added to the depository catalog. There was an increase in the loan department of 23 per cent. Circulation from the loan desk was 141,595v. A successful plan for the year was the permission for any student of good standing intending to return in the Fall, to draw books for use during the six weeks vacation following the close of the Spring term. There was a loss of 181v., of which 138 were taken from the reserve shelves. The loss was so great as to require that nearly 1,800v. be taken from the open shelves and placed on reserve at the loan desk. The need of more assistants in the reference department and

at the catalog cases is urgently presented. About 8,500v. belonging to the general library are on deposit in the various departmental libraries. The departmental libraries have, for the most part, inadequate accommodations for readers and are under the direction of clerks whose non-library duties occupy most of their time. There were 1,000 titles added to the list of serials currently received by the library. Many valuable gifts of foreign material were received from the Exposition authorities.

Building operations and plans have interfered seriously with the work of the library, the comfort of the staff and the success of the work.

Appropriations for the year were, salaries, \$25,220; assistants, \$1,900; books, \$25,000; binding, \$5,000; expenses, \$4,800.

#### Canada

The annual report of the Toronto public library is given in the January number of the *Book Bulletin*. The opening of three branch libraries is called the outstanding event of the year. Attention is called to the growth in scope and value of the Robertson print collection of which the library has been the fortunate recipient for several years. All the available space in the present quarters is now occupied and plans are under consideration for more room, particularly for display. A decrease in the use of the reference room is doubtless due to the absence of the young men who were the regular users of the library, and who are now in the army.

The circulation of books among boys and girls for 1916, was 387,351. A course of story telling, carried on in all the branches has enrolled about 15,000 children. The stories have generally centered around the names and works of those connected with the history of Canada with the thought that the new generation will have a Canadian historical background which is sadly lacking in the present generation. The total use of the books in the main library and the branches was about 1,200,000, of which 940,844v. were for home use. The reference library has now 100,000v., the circulating libraries 185,000v.

#### Foreign

A committee to collect books suitable for replenishing the library of Louvain after the war, has been recently appointed in England. The librarian of the John Rylands library, Manchester, England and the librarian of the House of Lords have the matter in charge. The Rylands library will also undertake to catalog and classify the books and to make records of the new volumes.

When did you learn to read? J. B. Kerfoot, the brilliant literary editor of *Life*, makes the startling statement that he is still learning, and substantiates his words in his book, "How to Read." Nearly everyone, he says, thinks of the expression "learning to read" as having no other meaning than the technical, primary-school meaning, namely, of learning the alphabet, learning to recognize words made out of the alphabet, learning the dictionary meanings of more and more words, and thus learning to receive messages sent by print or handwriting. As a matter of fact, Mr Kerfoot contends that "learning to read" means learning to interpret the printed page, and that reading a novel, for instance, is a creative performance, like playing a Beethoven sonata. The reader unconsciously, brings into play the sum total of his own past living to render in terms of his own consciousness the theme which the author outlines.

Mr Kerfoot's book is written from an absolutely fresh point of view—"the first new idea in centuries on books and reading," one reader says of it,—and a leading critic remarks: "How to Read may deliver a death blow at your self esteem, but in dying, you are more likely than not to get a glimpse, at least, of the heaven of mental enjoyment.

**For Sale**—Complete set Harper's Magazine. 134v. (120 bound). V. 1 to 70, 35 years, with full separate encyclopedic index. Address C. W. Spalding, 1851 Byron St., Chicago.

**Wanted:** Library trained young lady of seven years' experience as cataloger, wishes to change position. New England preferred. Address "P. E. G." care of Library Bureau, Boston.

**To Librarians:** For sale—The Medical and Surgical History of the Rebellion, six volumes complete, in splendid condition. Address "L. W. L." Library Bureau, Chicago.